

French drop proposal for Antarctic whale refuge

BY DAVID YOUNG

A FRENCH proposal to have the Antarctic ocean below the fortieth parallel declared a sanctuary for whales has been withdrawn from the agenda of the International Whaling Commission in Glasgow.

More than half the 29 nations at the conference had indicated that they would support the proposal but Japan has mustered enough support from smaller nations, notably four Caribbean countries, to ensure that the plan would not receive the necessary 75 per cent of the vote.

Amid accusations over Japan's tactics, France decided to submit the plan next year rather than see it rejected now. The French former environment minister Brice Lalonde, who drew up the proposal with the support of Britain and the European Community, said: "Science has shown that the only way to protect a species is to give it a sanctuary from man."

The commission is to meet in Japan next year. If the motion is to stand any chance of acceptance there, its supporters will have to persuade more of the 37 member nations of the commission to take part in discussions.

The Glasgow conference is being attended by 29 nations. St Kitts, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica are supporting the traditional pro-whaling nations such as Japan, Norway and Russia.

Officially the reason for the sanctuary motion being withdrawn is that scientific officers need more time to examine the implications. Environmental groups believe that a row over allegations that the Japanese are influencing voting among Caribbean countries in their favour may have deterred the French from the risk of losing the vote.

Letters, page 15



Birthday visit: The Princess of Wales trying out a shoulder press at an orthopaedic hospital in Stanmore, northwest London. To celebrate her 31st birthday she was given cards, flowers and a model court jester

Britain hopeful of German role in fighter aircraft

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH officials involved in the four-nation European Fighter Aircraft programme are hopeful that Germany may still remain a partner after discussions with Britain, Italy and Spain due to the next three months.

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British officials believe that Germany has already pared down almost as far as it can but there may still be scope for producing an even more basic version. Under Herr Ruhe's proposal, a lighter version of EFA would have to be re-designed and British officials claim this will mean a more expensive aircraft, delivered five to eight years later than EFA.

Herr Ruhe has said that EFA technology could be used to produce this new, lighter aircraft. One senior British official likened this suggestion to developing a more advanced Land-Rover, producing 12 prototypes and then trying to use the same technology to build a Metro instead. The officials believe

that once the Germans have examined all the alternatives, they will be forced to come back to EFA, and even though the German parliament has voted to exclude from next year's budget the DM100 million needed for the next phase of the programme, this could be changed at a later stage.

The RAF emphasised yesterday that in the 1990s Britain had 12 different aircraft performing all the necessary functions such as air defence and ground attack. Once EFA had come into service in the late 1990s, there would be only three EFA, the Harrier and the Tornado GR1.

Herr Ruhe is due in London on Monday to talk with Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, and his officials about Germany's decision to withdraw from EFA.

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GEC plan, page 19

LSE wins more time to bid

BY DOUGLAS BROOM, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to convert County Hall, the former home of the Greater London Council, into a new base for the London School of Economics were boosted yesterday by a decision to allow the school more time to rally financial support for its proposal.

The London Residuary Body, which has the job of finding a buyer for the Grade II listed building opposite the Houses of Parliament, has signed a sale contract with the Japanese hotel and leisure group Shirayama. Ministers insisted that the contract should include a break clause which allows the residuary body to withdraw if an alternative buyer emerges before the end of the year.

John Ashworth, director of the LSE, said yesterday that the residuary body had agreed to give him until Friday of next week to produce evidence of financial support

and does not include three office blocks behind it. The LSE plans to use the entire site housing its teaching and research activities in the riverside building and converting the office blocks into a "social science park".

Professor Ashworth said commercial and City consultancies and research institutions had expressed considerable interest in taking space in the new park which would be the social science equivalent of science parks established by other universities.

He refused to name the price the school would be prepared to offer for the whole site. He said that a commercial figure would be agreed for the office buildings while the LSE still hoped that the government would agree to lease it the main building in return for a commitment to refurbish it at no cost to the taxpayer.



Ashworth: plans for a social science park

Village brings hairy issue to a head

BY PETER VICTOR

THE parish councillors of Datchet, Berkshire, will tomorrow attend a special meeting to consider a matter of considerable gravity.

Already the issue has involved the police. There have been tears, threats, allegations and counter-claims. A local businessman says that the matter has ruined him and there are demands for members of the council to resign. The root of this contention is a haircut.

Warren Archer, who runs a hairdresser's shop, said that a customer, Ann O'Donnell, asked him to make her look younger. When the job was done she complained that her new hair-style was too short and showed too much white hair. She claimed that Mr Archer refused to let her

leave the shop and threatened to call the police. Her husband, Dr Jim O'Donnell, a cardiologist and member of the parish council, remonstrated with Mr Archer, leaving him in tears. Mr Archer called the police, who told him he should seek redress through the parish council.

Mrs O'Donnell used the village notice-board to publicise what had happened. Ewan Larcombe, the council chairman, tore down the notice and took the key to the notice-board's glass case. Mrs O'Donnell fixed a replacement notice to the glass. Mr Larcombe removed it. Dr O'Donnell called for his resignation. Nine members of the council want Dr O'Donnell's resignation.

Little sign of compromise

was apparent yesterday. Mr Archer said that he was leaving Datchet. "The whole thing was awful. The doctor abused his power as a parish councillor and threatened me. This has destroyed my business. I'm closing in a fortnight because word spreads fast in a small village like Datchet. The whole incident was very upsetting for me. Many people are refusing to come in here now."

Mrs O'Donnell declined to comment on the matter yesterday. Dr O'Donnell denied threatening Mr Archer and said that he had no intention of resigning from the council. "Other parish councillors have got hold of this complaint and set out to damage my character but I won't be resigning for simply stand-

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Investment increases but slump cuts passenger totals and property prices

Rail losses hit £144m despite big subsidy rise

BY MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail announced yesterday that it lost £144.7 million in the year to April, a fifteen-fold increase over the previous 12 months, despite a £300 million rise in government subsidy to mitigate the effects of the recession.

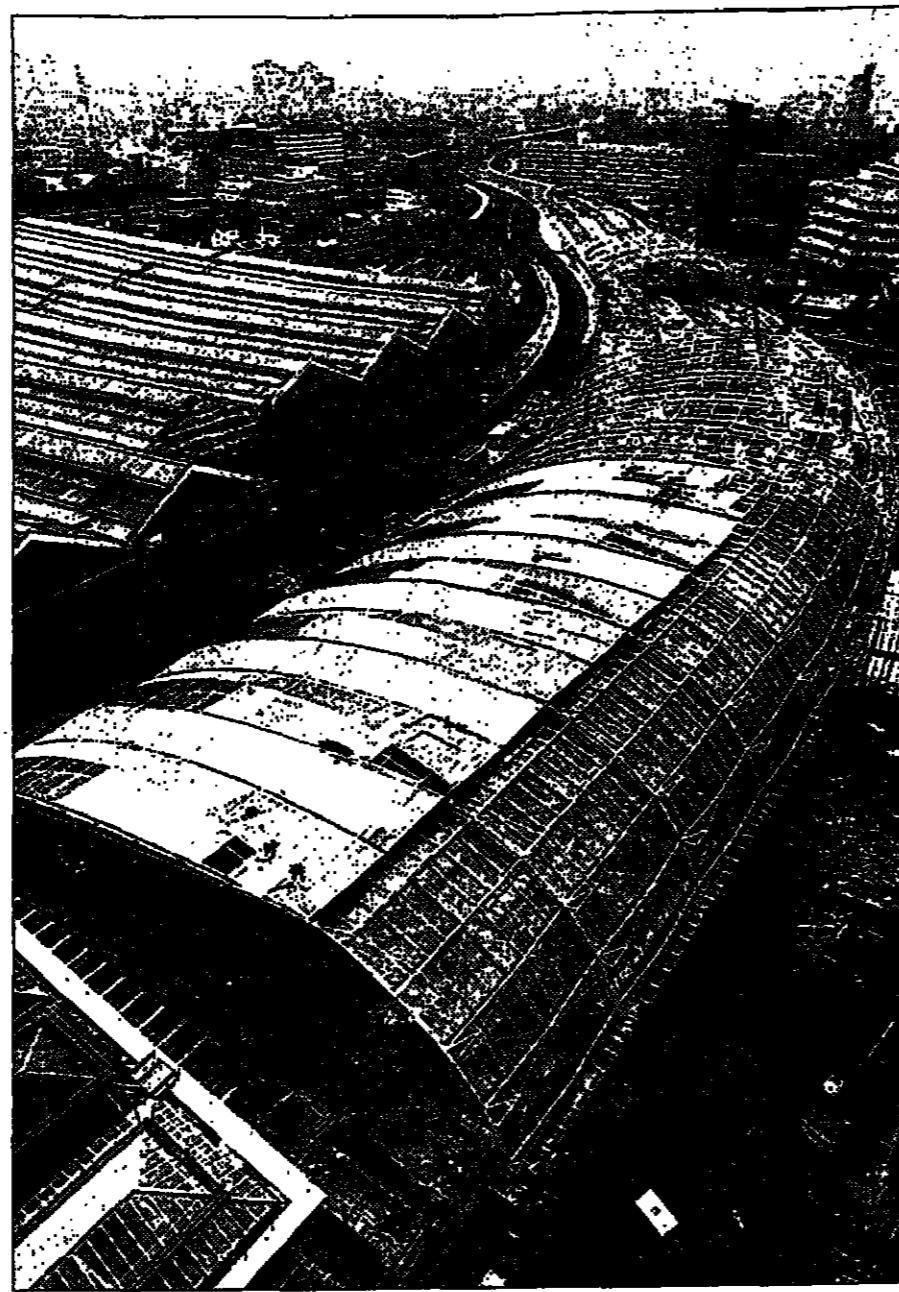
BR's disappointing results, which come two weeks before the government is due to publish its rail privatisation white paper, reflect fewer passengers, a collapse in income from property sales, high interest charges, and the capital cost of preparing for the Channel tunnel.

InterCity, the national passenger network, made a profit for the fourth year running, although its surplus fell from £49.7 million to £2 million. Trainload Freight, BR's newly created bulk freight operation, earned a profit of £67.5 million, confirming it as an early candidate for privatisation.

Network SouthEast, the London and South-East regional network, lost £181.9 million, up from £154.9 million in 1990-1, which fell to a deficit of £7 million after subsidies. Regional Railways losses increased from £503.4 million to £583.6 million, which was transformed into a surplus of £8.4 million by £592 million support.

Receipts from property sales and lettings, which have helped to cushion BR from the recession, fell from £223 million to £163.9 million. Revenue from property sales alone fell to £53.9 million, down by some 55 per cent over the previous year.

Despite the economic downturn, which saw the number of passenger journeys decline by 23 million, BR managed to increase investment to £1,005 million.



On time: building work on BR's new Waterloo international terminal

Spending on safety related schemes increased from £140 million to £225 million, Sir Bob said, a significant proportion of which went on hiring additional staff to comply with the safety recommendations made by the enquiry into the triple train crash at Clapham in 1988. In addition, BR has responded to the findings of the Health and Safety Executive into the safety of slam doors. Responding to the deteriora-

tion in BR's finances, John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, said that the financial targets imposed on BR are "undesirable and unworkable," he said. "They are a financial straitjacket which has led to a fall in the quality of service."

Season ticketholders will receive discounts if ten British Rail lines fail to improve the performance in the next six months.

The offending lines are

Richard Hope
and Diary, page 14

Freed poll tax rebel vows to fight on

TOMMY Sheridan, the Glasgow poll tax protester jailed for contempt of court, was released yesterday after four months. He said that he had no regrets about his imprisonment.

"I would not want to go to prison again but, if I am faced with the same circumstances that is what will happen," Mr Sheridan, 28, said after his release from Saughton jail in Edinburgh. "I am not going to be frightened or cowed."

Two dozen supporters, including his mother Alice, were outnumbered by the media when he emerged from the prison. He then headed for a rally with his supporters outside the council building in Glasgow.

Mr Sheridan, of Pollok, Glasgow, was jailed for six months for defying a court order banning him from a warrant sale of community charge debtors' goods. His term was reduced by good behaviour.

While in prison, he stood as a Militant Labour candidate in the general election in the Glasgow Pollok constituency, gaining 6,000 votes. He was expelled from the Labour party for Militant links.

He won a seat on Glasgow district council in May. His councillor's attendance payments were frozen in an attempt by the authorities to pay off his poll tax arrears. Mr Sheridan said that he has not signed the necessary mandate for the funds to be paid and is now planning legal action to stop the move.

"Some things haven't changed," he said yesterday.

The rich seem to be getting richer from what I read in the papers. But one thing that has changed is that the campaign against the poll tax is now even stronger. There are more people not paying than I first went in."

While in jail he received 1,606 letters and said that he replied to every one. He paid tribute to prison staff and fellow inmates who had treated him "tremendously".

High-tech trap is hard cheese for nosy mice

Cheddar is out, infra-red beams are in. Nick Nuttall examines a device giving new meaning to the phrase computer mouse

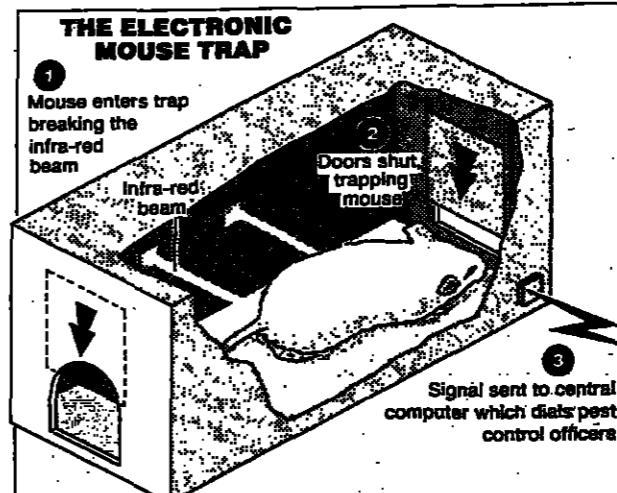
THE mousetrap has entered the computer age. In place of the traditional slab of wood topped by a piece of sprung wire that gives the unwary householder fitting a lump of Cheddar a nasty thwack across the fingertips comes the Mouse Alert, a device involving infra-red beams, a central computer and automatic telephone calls to pest control officers.

The 7in-long box has small holes at each end. A mouse entering it breaks one of two beams, which sends a signal causing doors to slide across the holes. Another signal is sent to the computer, which dials a predetermined set of telephone numbers to alert the nearest officer.

The Mouse Alert has been developed by Rentokil of East Grinstead, Sussex. Grant Parrott, for the company, said that the system had many advantages over traditional traps, including reliability. A computer print-out of mouse incidents could be produced for companies to show public health inspectors, proving how seriously they took pest control.

No cheese is needed. Research has shown that mice like to scurry close to skirting boards, sensing their position with their whiskers. If

Anti-bug danger, L&T section, page 6



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BUSINESS MACHINE CENTRES

Troops attack fairground families after drink binge

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A SPELL of midsummer madness turned Cambridge into a bantle zone early yesterday, when over 40 drunken soldiers from the 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers attacked 'sleeping' fairground workers in their caravans on Midsummer Common before rampaging through the city centre.

By morning the common scene of an annual fair since the time of King John, resembled a set from a cowboy movie, with more than £5,000 damage to the victims' wagons. Sharpened fence stakes torn from the ground and used to smash the windows and bodywork of cars and caravans littered the site. Military police were interviewing soldiers at Oakington Barracks in Cambridgeshire yesterday, before their departure for Belize. No arrests were made.

The fair workers had packed their travelling circus away after the show ended on Monday. John Fendick, 60, head of a large travelling family, said: "I woke to see hordes of them bellowing and shouting like they were the Indians in a cowboy film, coming across the common. I shouted to my daughter to get the other children and drive them away. I heard them shouting, 'Kill the bastards'."

One man, who declined to be named, told how his wife and 13-year-old son awoke on the floor of their caravan after the soldiers threw a gas cylinder through a window, followed by fence stakes. "We were terrified," he said. "The gas was still on when they

threw the cylinder and one went flying straight through the caravan." Senior army officers sent flowers and an apology to the man's wife yesterday.

Police said that they believed the attack by the soldiers, who were not in uniform, might have been to avenge an attack on a soldier in a Cambridge pub at the weekend. Fairground workers denied this. One said: "This was purely a case of a load of drunken Scotsmen coming here and smashing the place up for no reason at all. They caused trouble in pubs earlier on and then started to psych each other up to have a go at us." Others said that they were considering a complaint to the police about their slow reaction.

Previous clashes between locals and soldiers from Oakington, Waterbeach and Bassingbourn barracks have led in the city being placed out of bounds for the soldiers. A police enquiry into the disturbances, which began earlier in city centre pubs and involved up to 100 soldiers, was launched by David Winser, assistant chief constable of Cambridgeshire.

A police spokesman said that a special operation at the five-day fair ended when the fair closed on Monday night. "We had no advance intelligence this was going to happen and therefore no men on the ground. We couldn't match the soldiers even though we got some reinforcements. There were a number of running skirmishes until 3am."

Judge jails last man in bank gang

A man said to have masterminded three armed robberies on Lloyds Bank branches, netting about £500,000, was jailed yesterday for twelve and a half years.

Matthew Chieke, 25, admitted robbery, firearms of fences, handling stolen cash and guns and handling the proceeds of burglaries, when he appeared at the Old Bailey. The judge told him: "I find it impossible to accept your counsel's submission that you played a subordinate role."

Chieke was arrested in an expensive rented apartment in Marbella. Police found a false passport and more than £20,000 in a false ceiling in the bathroom.

The other two gang members — Chieke's brother Stephen, 19, and Mark Calver, 22 — were each jailed for 12 years last year after admitting their parts in the robberies.

£1m sale hope

Christie's expects to raise more than £1 million from a three-day sale of more than 1,000 lots from the stock of a west London architectural fittings and garden statuary firm in October. The lots will include a complete Georgian shop front bought for £50 in 1958, and an entire wood panelled room from 52 Charles Street, Mayfair, reportedly from the home of Neil Gwynne.

Pit bull shot

Police shot dead a stray pit bull terrier after it attacked a man walking across a green at Peckham, south London. The man was taken to King's College Hospital with serious injuries to his left arm. Police did not give his name. The dog was not wearing a collar or tag. Sergeant Wayne Nash said that the dog was completely out of control. "It was far too dangerous for our dog handlers to approach."

Fan convicted

A 21-year-old Englishman was convicted by a court in Stockholm of inciting fights between English and Swedish soccer fans during the European Championships last month by shouting "Let's kill the Swedes." The man, from Wolverhampton, was not named, according to Swedish practice. He was allowed to return home after spending 14 days in jail awaiting his trial.



Finest arts: representatives of five organisations picked from 220 to win £25,000 each in the Prudential arts awards at Hamiltons Gallery, central London, yesterday. Seated from the left: John Ward of Opera

North, Leeds; Richard Steinitz, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival; Gary McKeone, Field Day Theatre Company, Londonderry; standing, Jonathan Wilkins, Chisenhale Gallery, London; Val

Bourne, Dance Umbrella, London. Five individuals shortlisted for the £5,000 Arts Council Award were also announced: Simon Rattle, principal conductor of the City of Birmingham Orchestra; Cicely Berry, voice director of the Royal Shakespeare Company; Lloyd Newson, director of DV8 dance company; Sir Charles Mackerras, musical director of Welsh National Opera; and David Sylvester, the art critic.

Prisoners locked in gun store

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

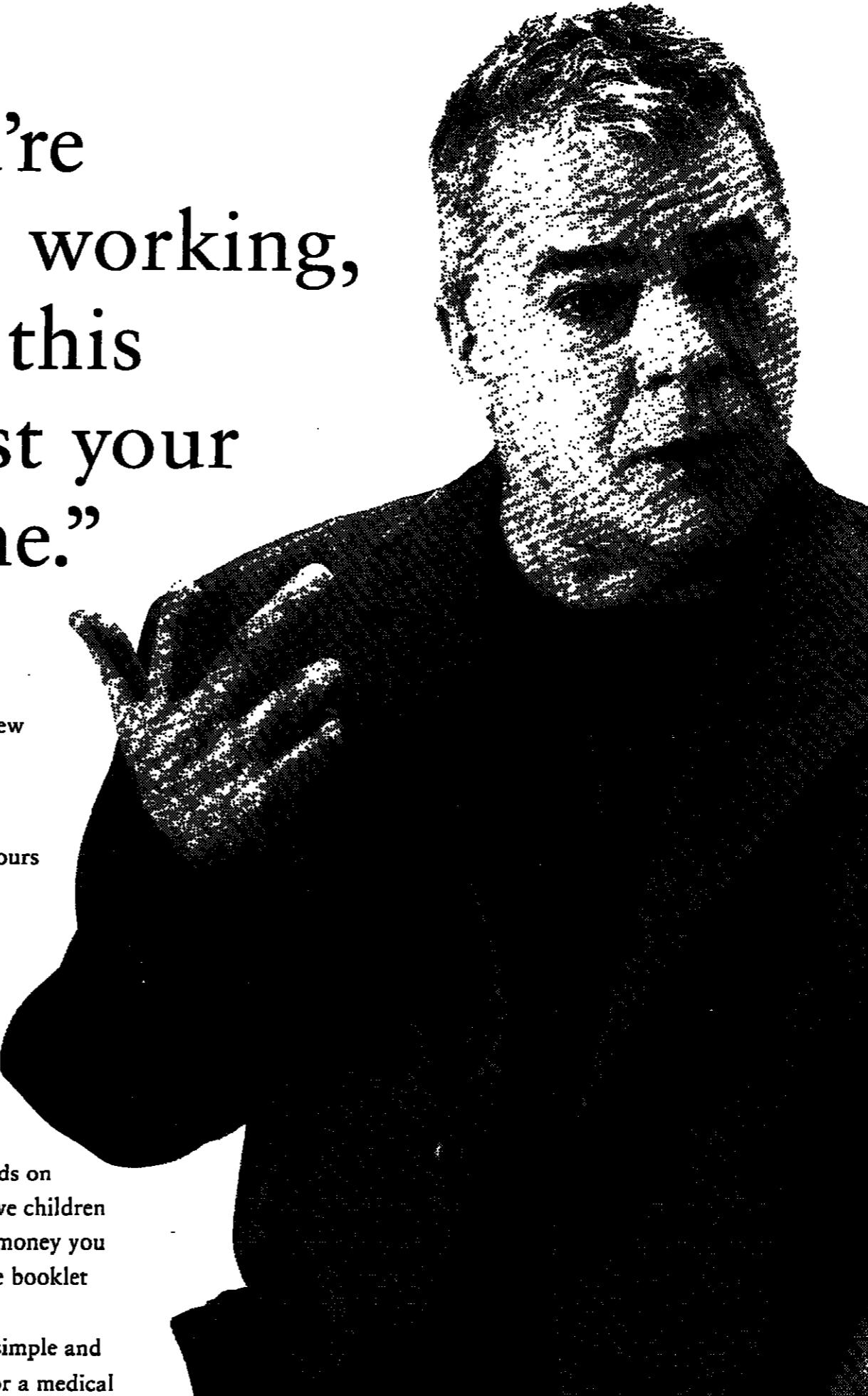
TWO men arrested in the early hours of the morning for being drunk and disorderly in the centre of Castlebar, Co Mayo, in the Irish Republic, were locked up in a police cell that was being used to store five revolvers, a submachine gun and 20,000 rounds of ammunition.

Only two police officers were on duty in the town on the night in late May. After a scuffle in the station, they managed to force the men into a cell, not knowing that it was being used as a weapons store in contravention of regulations.

The officers realised that something was wrong when they heard the prisoners smashing the submachine gun against the cell wall, according to the *Irish Independent*. When they went to investigate they found that they had also scattered the ammunition and the pistols all around the cell.

A police source told the newspaper it was pure luck that the prisoners, who were released without charge, did not load the guns.

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Anorexic girl enters special medical unit for treatment

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE anorexic teenage girl who lost her court battle for the legal right to confine starving herself was moved to a London medical centre for treatment yesterday after the Court of Appeal was told she had bowed to the inevitable.

The 16-year-old girl, identified as "J", was seen by her solicitor on Tuesday night and told of the appeal judges' decision that, because of her rapidly failing health, she could be given treatment without her consent. She said she still wants to stay in the special psychiatric unit where she is being cared for and is unhappy about the court's ruling, her counsel, Allan Levy QC, told the Court of Appeal yesterday.

"But she is going to co-operate. She bows to the inevitable, bearing in mind the order of the court," he told Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, and Lords Justices Balcombe and Nolan. The girl entered a special medical unit in London yesterday afternoon.

Lord Donaldson emphasised that the court had made no final ruling in the case, which involved wider issues than those immediately affecting J. The decision that the girl could receive treatment against her wishes was an interim measure in the special circumstances of her case.

The judges heard argument on the legal principles involved. They have been referred to the 1969 Family Law Reform Act, under which, it was argued on J's behalf, adolescents between 16 and 18 could refuse consent to surgical, medical and dental treatment. Lawyers, doctors and carers recognise that the implications of the case are far-reaching.

John Samuels, QC, for the local authority which has care of the girl, asked the judges to declare that the act conferred no rights, per se, on adolescents. The judges are expected to give their detailed

judgement on the issues involved at a later date. Their decision, unless challenged in the House of Lords, will lay down vital guidelines for future cases.

The court has issued a strict injunction barring publication of any information — including the identity of the local authority and prospective foster parents — calculated to lead to the girl being identified. The injunction also bars anyone from soliciting information from the child or those caring for her.

Mr Samuels, arguing that the 1969 act did not confer absolute rights, said that in appropriate circumstances the protective system of the courts would always be available to "enable the wayward teenager to cope with and overcome a temporary medical crisis".

During final submissions by Mr Levy, for J, Lord Donaldson said: "The principle of good parenting is to give children as much rope as appropriate but not enough to hang themselves." Mr Levy maintained that the judges had failed to give sufficient weight to J's wishes.

Major Somerton, the girl's solicitor, said she was understandably depressed about the court's decision. "She accepts that treatment will be administered and she will probably co-operate — but at what level we will have to see."

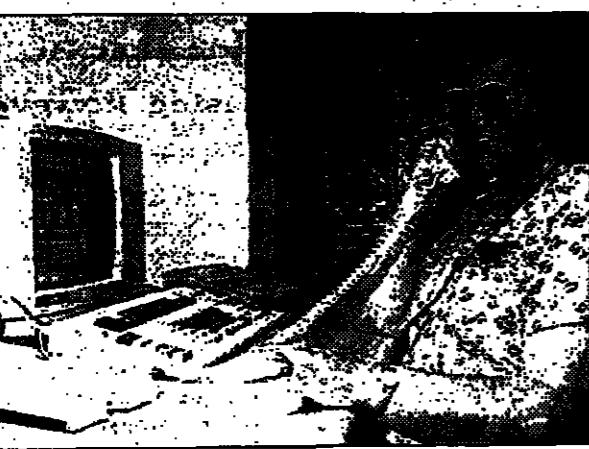
Once the girl had gained weight, her psychiatric problems would be dealt with. At the end of the programme she would go to foster parents or a psychiatric unit.

Yesterday Ian Kennedy, professor of medical law and ethics at King's College, London, said that the court was weighing up whether the right to order treatment applied in this case because of the girl's "life threatening" circumstances, or whether it would apply more widely. If the latter was the reason, he said, it meant that "adolescents had no rights at all in



Carved with pride: Norman Tait, a North American Indian chief, in Bushy Park, southwest London, yesterday, when a 37ft totem pole he carved was raised to mark Canada Day

A duty to live? page 14



Home alone: Margaret Duncan answering directory enquiries at her home in Forres

BT phones home in exchange trial

Telephone operators in Inverness are taking part in a scheme allowing them to work from home, Louise Hidalgo writes

CALLERS to directory enquiries in Inverness should not be put off by the sound of a vacuum cleaner in the background. It is just Shona McGougan fitting in her chores while taking part in a BT experiment on flexible working.

Mrs McGougan is one of ten operators at Inverness telephone exchange who have volunteered to work from home for the next year. She has already been doing so for the past fortnight, testing new equipment which, to prevent home operators becoming lonely, includes a videophone so that they can catch up on the latest office gossip during breaks.

"You have to be fairly disciplined," Mrs McGougan said. "But when you're answering a call a minute, you don't get much time to be distracted. And during my breaks, I can do some vacuuming or put clothes in the washing machine."

"I haven't had a chance to feel lonely. I use the videophone every day to talk to other operators during the tea break and to check in with my supervisor when I start work. If the doorbell or the telephone rings, I just have to ignore them."

The greatest saving she has found has been the 40 minutes travelling the 13 miles to Inverness from her home in Forres, on Black Isle, every day. "It's saving me at least £40 a month in petrol alone."

Teleworking, the comput-

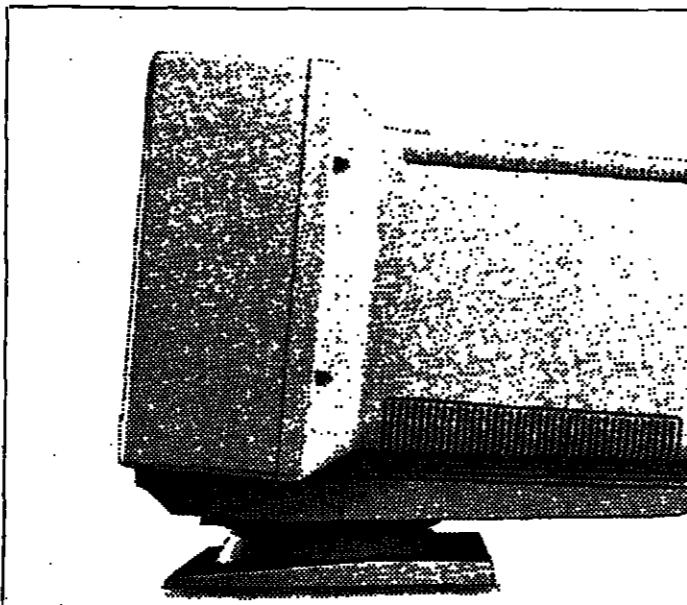
er and telephone-based technology, introduced in the late 1980s, has been confined so far to senior staff or self-employed people. The National Economic Development Office, however, estimates that about 1.5 million people are working partly or completely from home or from a "satellite office", and predicts that the number will rise. The majority work in information technology, but many work for telephone-based services such as mail-order companies.

"Teleworking is part of an overall move towards more flexible working," Barbara Stephens, the development office's industrial adviser, said. "By the year 2000, we believe half of the workforce will be working an alternative to the Monday to Friday, nine to five pattern."

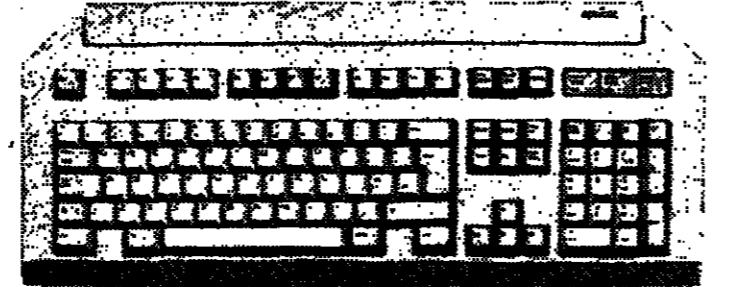
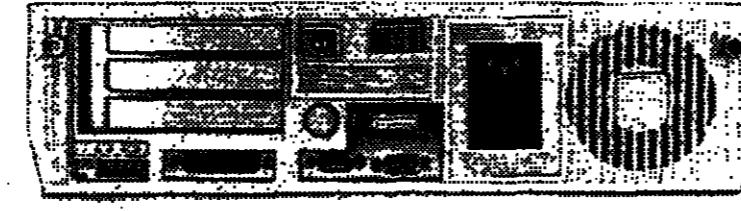
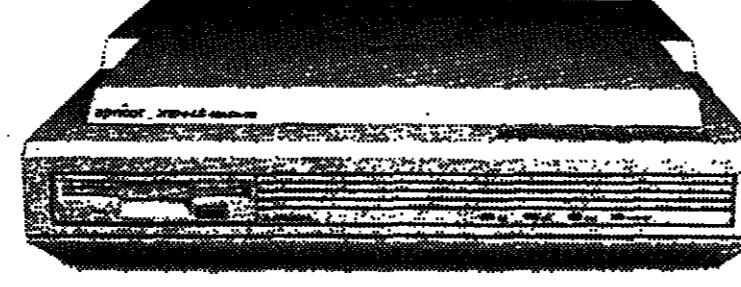
BT, which hopes that its experiment will attract other businesses to use its services for their own teleworkers, intends to extend the scheme to other sections of its workforce later in the year.

"We have not yet decided which employees will be participating," Mike Gray, head of BT's research centre, said. "But one thing we have had to make clear is that it is not a substitute for childcare."

In the meantime, Aberdeen University psychology department will be monitoring the "happiness level" of the teleworkers if not BT's customers.



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Unskilled clerks advise suspects

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

UNQUALIFIED clerks with little or no understanding of the law are carrying out the vital task of advising suspects in police stations, according to unpublished research for the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

The research paints a damning picture of the quality of legal advice given to suspects who exercise their statutory right to it, largely because solicitors delegate the call-out work to clerks. The clerks, sometimes only 19, often have no legal training, no understanding of the law, cannot see a defence case and do not understand whether police are acting legally.

The findings, still in draft form, will be a central part of any proposals by the commission for strengthening suspects' rights to legal advice as a balance to possible miscarriages of justice. They are likely to lead to recommendations for strict quality control of firms doing duty solicitor work, which now costs £61 million a year.

Dr Jacqueline Hodgson, lecturer in law at Warwick University and co-author of the research with Dr Michael

McConvile, professor of law,

said: "Some firms try very hard and are extremely committed. They give an excellent service and put professional ethics above making a profit. Unfortunately they are a minority." Such firms were horrified at the practices of the majority of the "big defence providers" who were geared to a high turnover, achieved through delegating the duty advice work to clerks.

Delegation of duty solicitor work to a solicitor's representative was allowed under the 1984 Police and Criminal Act.

The research for the commission is part of a bigger four-year project in which the Warwick team has looked at 200 legal advisers in 50 law firms.

The findings of that project will be published next year. The theme running through both pieces of research is the bad advice given by legal advisers to suspects.

Dr Hodgson said: "Many of them are legal executives. But legal executives are legally trained; and these advisers very often are not."

Leading article, page 15

Top police accept new work deal

By STEWART TENDERLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE chief constables have accepted the principle of short term contracts for the top level of the service and the end of the system where senior officers can keep their jobs up to 65 with little or no check. Senior officers have also opened the way to the possibility of performance related pay.

The principle of five-year contracts has been accepted by representatives of the Association of Chief Police Officers during negotiations on pay proposals going before local authorities and the Home Office. A system for contracts and new pay calculations may be some time away but the positive attitude of the chief constables could influence the rest of the police.

A senior police source said the only restriction on contracts put forward by association members is that there would have to be safeguards to preserve police independence in operational matters. The contracts would at first apply to only chief constables and their deputies.

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MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC

Consumers' group and fire chiefs fear safety risk from fuel injection systems and increased electronics

Fire deaths blamed on car designers

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF fire officers and the Consumers' Association are calling for improvements in car design to try to cut the record number of deaths in vehicle fires. Both groups fear that fuel injection systems and advanced electronics are partly responsible for the rise.

John Beishon, director of the Consumers' Association, said yesterday: "Car makers could make many improvements which might mean the difference between life and death. Almost half the car fires in 1990 - 46 per cent - were caused in some way by the cars themselves."

Deaths in fires not started deliberately doubled to 133 between 1980 and 1990. Two thirds of those died in fires started by crashes.

The association investigates car fires in its magazine *Which?*, published today. It began the investigation after discovering cases including a new Citroen XM that burnt out after only two weeks and a Peugeot 205 diesel that was repaired after one fire but burst into flames again on the way back from the garage. Dr

Beishon said that the government should name models most susceptible to fire. The Fire Brigades' Chief and Assistant Chief Officers' Association carried out its own survey of five regions and discovered that electrical equipment was at fault in 61 per cent of non-deliberate vehicle fires. The first item to ignite was fuel, in 40 per cent of cases, followed by insulation materials (22 per cent), and wiring (17 per cent). Older cars were the most vulnerable, as their wiring perished with age, leads became faulty and fuel lines broke.

Which? and the chief officers say that many modern cars have inflammable materials near heat sources. Both groups are particularly worried that fuel injection systems could keep on pumping petrol even after a crash had started a fire. They want automatic cut-outs fitted on all fuel-injection cars. The use of electronics is increasing the number of dashboard fires, according to the fire brigades. In cars made before 1985, 75 per cent of fires

started under the bonnet and 9 per cent in the dashboard. In cars made after 1985, those figures had changed to 69 per cent and 14 per cent.

The chief fire officers want automatically triggered extinguishers fitted under the bonnets of cars. The Consumers' Association also calls for the wider use of extinguishers and recommends that owners fit hand-held models.

The fire officers are to ask the Home Office to start a more detailed system of reporting to help to understand why fires start. They also want manufacturers to study the deterioration of wiring, the proximity of heat to flammable materials and the routing of fuel lines. Foams and insulation materials used in the passenger compartment, currently unregulated, should conform to legislation for domestic furniture.

The total number of vehicle fires rose from 25,792 in 1981 to 44,527 in 1990. Forty-four per cent were deliberate, caused by theft, vandalism or owners trying to claim insurance.

THE Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders says only 3.4 per cent of fires occur during crashes and design is making cars safer.

Steps which makers say they have taken include: Ford: highly flame-resistant interior materials; fuel pump cut-outs in crash. Volvo: stan-

dard for upholstery flame resistance 20 per cent more stringent than other makers; fuel tank leakage prevented; fuel pump cut-out; Vauxhall: fuel pump cut-out; fuel-filter valve prevents leakage if car overturns. Rover: exceeds US standards on flame resistance by 20 per cent.

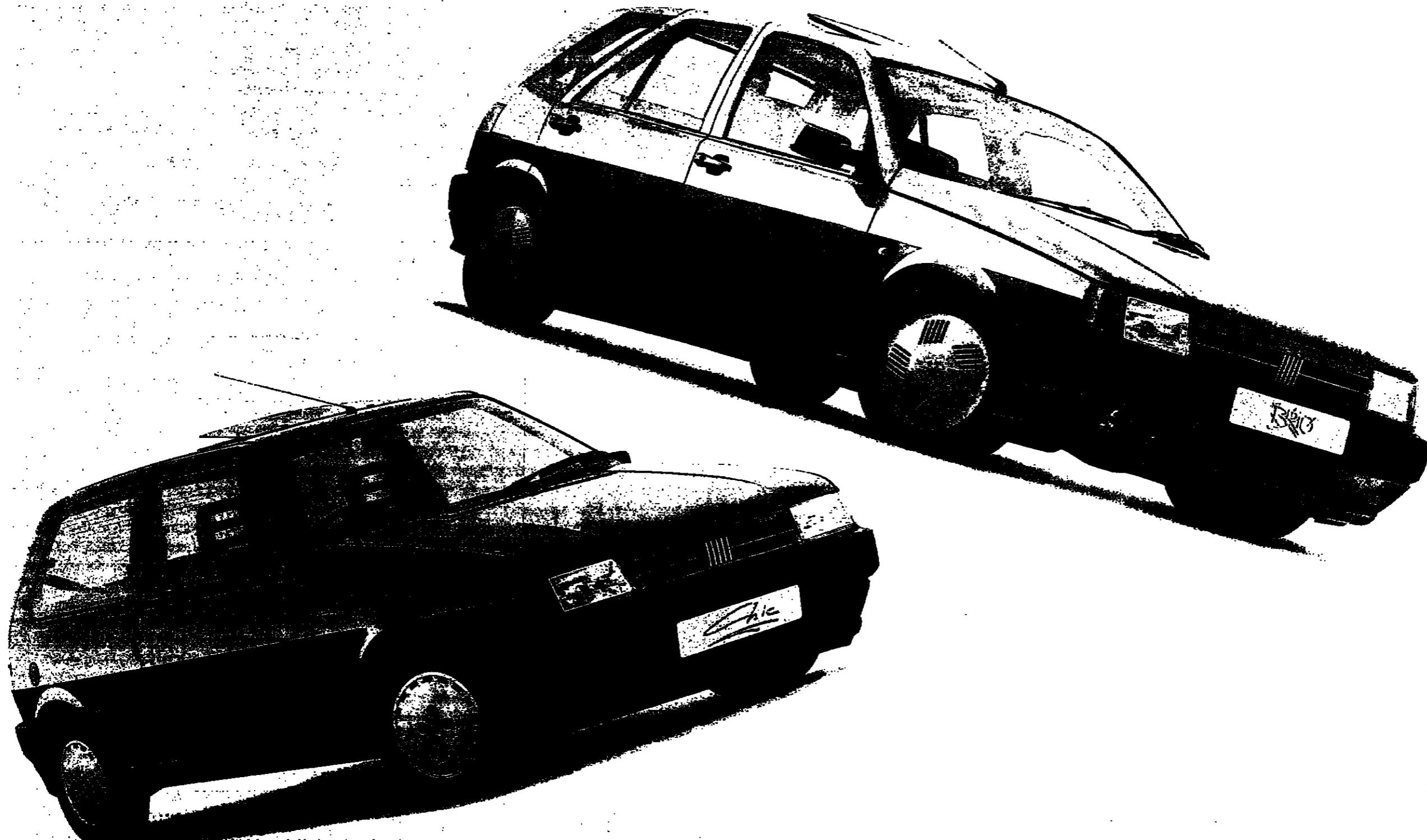
What the makers say



Burn-up: a fuel-injected sports car that burst into flames at traffic lights in London a month ago

Photo: PA

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Rifkind: confirmed plan to cut forces

Sarajevo peacemaking must wait in line for British military help

The government's reluctance to become involved in "peacemaking" operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina is driven by manpower limitations as well as by military reservations. With 20,000 servicemen and women committed in Northern Ireland and the three-year plan to reduce the army by 40,000 in progress, the government can ill afford to contemplate a mission which could engage thousands of troops for a long period.

Nato and the nine-nation Western European Union are committed to a security role in which peacekeeping lies at the heart of military strategy. Britain has supported this

The government can ill afford to consider a long mission involving thousands of troops, Michael Evans writes

new role but has emphasised the importance of distinguishing between peacekeeping and peacemaking.

The distinction, which the people of Sarajevo must be finding increasingly difficult to appreciate, is crucial for Britain because the government's defence strategy for the 1990s, under its Options for Change review, does not cover military intervention in ethnic or civil wars whether inside or outside Europe. Nor does it take into account any

new "major commitment", which would include a large scale, long-term deployment of ground forces in a peacekeeping capacity.

Ministers have said that in the event of a significant increase in commitments, the Options for Change calculations would have to be looked at again. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, has confirmed this policy but has not yet indicated any desire to tinker with the Options for Change decisions made by

his predecessor Tom King. A major peacekeeping contribution in Croatia is not regarded as a significant new commitment and is accounted for under the options strategy.

The commitment in Northern Ireland is the main restraining factor on the government's whole military policy. Two extra battalions and the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment and the 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, were sent over at the end of March as reinforcements after the spate of sectarian killings. They have this week been replaced by the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards

and the 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment. There is beginning to be a feeling of permanence about the reinforcement.

While the extra troops on the ground have helped to stop the cycle of sectarian murders and have provided a more visible deterrent, the heavy commitment in the province places a considerable strain on the army's manpower resources. In 1995, when the army will be cut to 104,000 trained personnel, a commitment of 20,000 troops in Ulster will represent nearly 20 per cent of total manpower.

In contingency planning for the initial peacekeeping

mission in Croatia, the Ministry of Defence did not feel in a position to offer a heavy-weight contribution and a field ambulance team of only 300 men and women were assigned to the United Nations.

Under the latest contingency plan, for supplying humanitarian aid to Sarajevo, military personnel sent with the food and medical supplies will be kept to the minimum. If Britain is to play a continuing role in peacekeeping and humanitarian aid missions in the future, or if the policy on peacemaking changes, the Ulster commitment will remain the key element in deciding how big and

how long term the British contribution can be.

If the security demands in Ulster were to be reduced significantly, allowing a cut in the number of resident battalions, currently six, the manpower restrictions would be relieved at a stroke and Britain could more easily contemplate military action with her allies.

However, at present, the withdrawal of even the two reinforcement battalions seems highly unlikely, especially at a time when the government is engaged in delicate talks on the future of Northern Ireland.

Letters, page 15

Kinnock calls on Labour to build trust among voters

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL KINNOCK yesterday appealed to the Labour party to give his successor the chance to spend the next four years putting across policies and ideas and to build up public trust.

The retiring leader and his deputy, Roy Hattersley, told Labour MPs that the party had had to spend too long putting things right, and not enough time putting across the message of what it stood for.

In what may be his last big speech to the Parliamentary Labour Party Mr Kinnock made an emotional plea to

the party not to ask the next leader to do what he had had to do in concentrating so much of his time on reorganisation.

He said he had done it with enthusiasm because he knew the job had to be done, but now the new leader had to be allowed to build on what had been achieved by spending the next four years "accentuating the positive" and putting across the policies.

The party could not go back on the policy, constitutional and organisation changes of recent years. It was a function that had to be carried out but it would be unforgivable if it had to be done all over again.

Mr Kinnock said Labour must constantly behave as a party serious about government and display the necessary discipline and single-mindedness. "The election was about hope and fear. And it was fear that won. People hung on to the Tories even in this time of recession because of this problem of trust," he said.

Mr Hattersley ruled out deals with other parties. "There is no future in coalitions. There is no future in becoming another Liberal party," he said. "We must sharpen our cutting edge as a Labour party, and when the next election comes, nothing must stand in the way of our capacity to answer questions about what the party stands for."

A regular theme raised by speakers during the Parliamentary Labour Party debate was Labour's failure to bridge the gender gap and appeal to women over 35. Mr Kinnock, referring to those remarks, said that "years of denigration" of Labour had fed into that problem. It had a bigger effect on the willingness of women to vote for Labour than men.

The new leadership should not be asked to deal with

party reorganisation, but must spend all of its time over the next four years accentuating the positive and putting across its policies, he added.

Mr Hattersley said that looking back now, they knew it was impossible to win by the time the general election campaign started. "What mattered was the four years that preceded it and the years before that. The tragedy for the country and the party was that we had to spend so much time putting things right in the party.

The legacy was not the formal connection with the trade unions but was the winter of discontent, a party of internal turmoil and chaos in the early 1980s. We did not have the opportunity or the time sufficiently to put forward the ideas to prepare people for the type of society we want."

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John Cole, left, who is retiring as the BBC's political editor, passes on a few tips to his successor, Robin Oakley, political editor of *The Times*. Mr Cole will still be seen on *Westminster Live*. BBC2's live coverage of prime minister's questions, after he retires in the autumn. He will also report for *Panorama*. Peter Riddell has been appointed political editor of *The Times* in succession to Robin Oakley. Mr Riddell will continue as *The Times*'s principal political commentator and columnist.

Police aid violence enquiry

Two Metropolitan Police officers are to be sent to South Africa to help in the investigation into township violence. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said at question time. The officers — later named as Commander Tom Laidlow and Detective Superintendent David Doe — will join Professor Peter Waddington of Reading University in helping Judge Goldstone's commission of enquiry into intimidation and violence.

MP appointed

Home Office minister Michael Jack has appointed Emma Nicholson, above, the MP for Devon West and Torridge, as his parliamentary private secretary. Miss Nicholson, who was first elected to the Commons in 1987, was director of fundraising for the Save the Children Fund from 1977 to 1985.

New peers

Two of Parliament's veteran adversaries, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Denis Healey, took their seats in the House of Lords. The former Tory Chancellor and foreign secretary was introduced as Lord Howe of Aberavon, and Labour's former Chancellor and defence secretary was introduced as Lord Healey.

Jobs vacant

About 75,000 school governor vacancies will need to be filled by the autumn, Eric Forth, an education minister, said in a written reply. The department is confident that enough people will come forward.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; prime minister. Debate on UK presidency of the EC. Lords (3): Debate on UK presidency of the EC.

Press threats dismissed as 'bluff'

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ROBERT MORGAN

FLEET Street's nobility yesterday rose to the defence of the "far from perfect" world of newspapers, fending off the need for new laws to curb the press.

Lords of print and screen amassed in the House of Lords to examine alleged abuses of privacy and political bias, multiple ownership of media organisations and the likelihood of government intervention. The debate took place the day after completion of an 18-month probationary period in which newspapers were given an ultimatum to behave more responsibly or face legislative action.

Lord Deedes, the former editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, was quick to dismiss the threat as "a bluff". "The press did very well at the last election and no government in its right sense bites the hand it feels has fed it."

Introducing the debate, Lord Bonham-Carter, a former vice-governor of the BBC, concentrated heavily on the need for privacy laws to curb "intrusive and speculative reporting" such as that surrounding the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales. He reserved special condemnation for the *Sunday Times* serialisation of Andrew Morton's book on the marriage. "By paying £250,000 for this trash, as all free marketers would know, a market has been created for garbage."

He claimed an incident in which Rupert Murdoch, chief executive of News Corporation, and the newly-appointed president of Twenty-First Century Fox for producing a male stripper at a conference attended by Dick Cheney, the US defence secretary. Quoting Mr Murdoch as saying "There are

pretty good tricks on the *Daily Mirror* in support of the Labour party".

Lord Wyatt of Weeford, the columnist Woodrow Wyatt, called for French-style restrictions on press invasion into privacy, saying that a Press Complaints Commission dominated by the profession "would always be a toothless dog". The serialisation of the book on the Princess of Wales "would have been aborted before birth" in France because of their privacy laws. Such legislation in Britain "would have nothing to do with censoring the press in their legitimate interests" and would not protect the likes of Robert Maxwell from being exposed.

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, a former chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, of *Daily Mirror* group political adviser, who said that he and colleagues "got up to some

to resort to some sort of government regulation of the press."

Lord Birk, a newspaper and magazine journalist of many years' standing, winding up for the Opposition, said it was a seductive idea to legislate just to restrict invasions of privacy. But she did not believe it could be done. It would have an adverse effect on the freedom of the press which had been fought for over the centuries.

"If we hit the problem with a statutory hammer we will be hitting not only the freedom of the press but the freedom of the individual." She went on: "It is essential in our democratic society to have a press which constantly scrutinises the government, the executive and governmental agencies and is free to so without fear.

Viscount Astor, winding up for the government, said: "I am not in a position to tell you precisely how the review of the 18-month period will be carried out nor by whom nor over what timescale. But the government hopes to be in a position to make an announcement soon. We want a lively and reliable press and a well-informed public, but not at our own expense. We are ready to read about the private affairs of others than to read about our own. We are voyeurs of the troubles of others. But we should distinguish between the right to know and what the public just deserves to know."

On cross-media ownership, he said that the Broadcasting Act imposed a number of restrictions on controlling newspapers and licensed television and radio services. "The government keeps the arrangement under careful review and so far the government have seen nothing which would seem to justify changes."

Bill aims to end secrecy

BY ROBERT MORGAN

A BILL to require people in public life, including police officers, to declare whether they are freemasons was introduced in the Commons yesterday by Chris Mullin, Labour MP for Sunderland South. The bill, he said, had support in high places because in 1986, in response to a questionnaire sent to all MPs, John Major affirmed that he was in favour of such declarations.

The bill did not ask public servants to renounce freemasonry, it merely asked them to renounce secrecy, he said. "If grown men wish to wear aprons, bare their breasts and indulge in strange rituals, that is entirely a matter for them."

The measure has all-party support, but is unlikely to become law. It is set down for second reading on Friday, November 13.

Mr Mullin said that his bill was entirely consistent with the government's policy of creating a classless society.

Menem may visit Major

PRESIDENT Menem of Argentina may visit Britain if relations between the two countries continue to improve. Baroness Chalker, the Foreign Office minister, said yesterday.

She told the Lords at question time that Señor Menem had met the prime minister briefly during the recent Rio Earth summit. There was now a chance the president might come to Britain, the first visit by an Argentinian leader since long before the Falklands war of 1982.

With the former prime

minister, Baroness Thatcher, present in the chamber, Lady Chalker said she regretted that Argentina still maintained its claim to the Falkland Islands. She was responding to concern expressed by some peers over whether Britain was capable of mounting a defence of the islands similar to that which took place under Lady Thatcher if a new military threat occurred.

Labour's defence spokesman, Lord Williams of Elvel, said that on all the evidence available it would be "impossible" to repeat the 1982 expedition which retook the islands from Argentina, given the present size of Britain's naval and merchant fleets and the composition of its armed forces.

Lady Chalker insisted:

"At the present time, we certainly could, if we had to, mount such an exercise again. But we should work for the positive, constructive relationship which seems to be coming between ourselves and Argentina, so that this will never again be necessary."

EC shrugs off Waldegrave charter plan for Brussels

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THERE was deep scepticism in Brussels yesterday as William Waldegrave, the citizen's charter minister, said that the charter might cross the Channel and be applied to the European Commission. To accept Baroness Thatcher's recent remark on the Maastricht-treaty, that might be an ambition too far.

As part of the programme of events linked to the six-month British presidency of the EC, John Major will open a conference in December devoted to ideas for toning up public services and hope to export the charter's efficiency prescriptions to Brussels. The prime minister apparently refrained from raising the subject at yesterday's encounter between ministers and EC

Paris: The French referendum on Maastricht is to be held on September 20 (Charles Bremner writes). The government's announcement came yesterday with opinion polls showing growing public support for European integration. In ignoring calls from EC leaders for a swift vote, President Mitterrand has set the stage for a long political summer likely to see further disarray among treaty opponents.

commissioners in London. But could the charter change the Community's soggy bureaucracy?

Appling the British version directly will not work because the Commission does not run a railway, do gallbladder operations or lose anybody's social security papers. The only service that the Commission offers is framing, implementing and enforcing policies decided by councils of national ministers. Twenty-three directorates draft directives on subjects from copy to capital adequacy. Governments mess the text about, the European parliament adds little obstruction and, if the country in the chair keeps everyone up late enough to grand

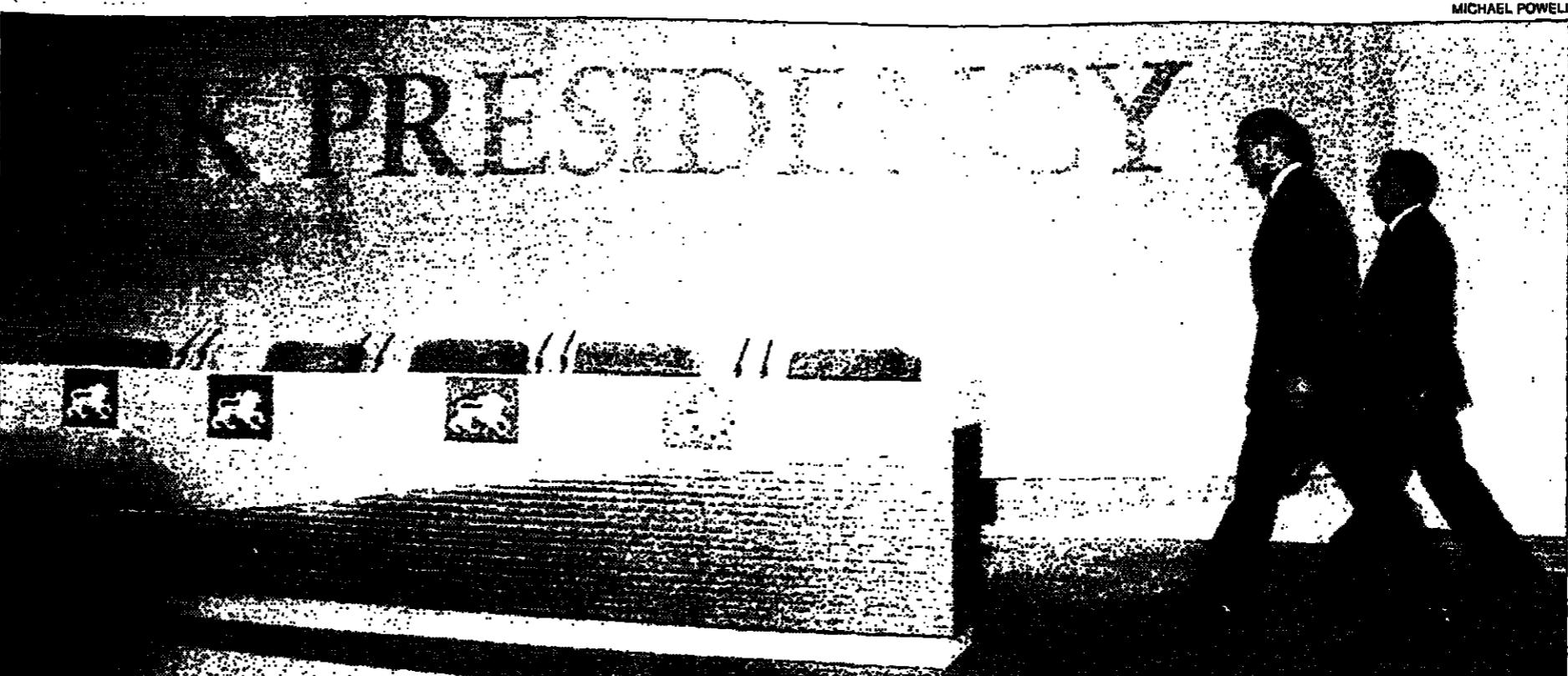
down resistance, an EC law is eventually passed.

Sir Roy Denman, a vociferous advocate of European unification and one of the handful of Britons ever to have run a big Commission directorate, wrote recently that "political intrigue has flourished like a science-fiction weed, sullying reasoned advice from senior officials; internally, the Commission has come to resemble Tammany Hall with a French accent." In the past month, the Commission has taken a huge share of the blame for the Danish rejection of the Maastricht treaty while overambitious governments have resolutely refused to examine their own consciences.

Could the Commission be more open? Many years will pass before Whitehall can lecture Brussels on open government. Documents with a diagonal strip saying "secret" in eight languages leak from Commission officials by the lorryload. Leaking is the accepted method by which governments and individual commissioners gain their edge over rivals. One recent Italian commissioner used to duck out of the Commission's regular Wednesday meeting while proceedings were still under way to relay his version of events to the Italian press corps.

Could Eurocrats be privatised? The Commission's defenders say its problems stem not from a bloated payroll but from understaffing. That claim was undermined recently by John Carey, the British member of the EC's financial watchdog, the court of auditors. Giving a personal opinion on the Commission's request for a 30 per cent increase in the EC budget, Mr Carey said that because it was so hard to define how effective EC staff were, more money might just make the place still less efficient.

Leading article and letters, page 15



Walk-on roles: John Major and Jacques Delors take the stage at a London press conference yesterday to mark the start of Britain's presidency of the European Community

Walesa urges Community to open up

PRESIDENT Walesa yesterday asked the European Community to honour its commitments to central Europe and to use the next six months to promote the benefits of Community membership to the East.

Speaking in an interview with *The Times* to mark the British presidency of the Community, the Polish president emphasised that Poland was not contrary to appearances, spinning out of control.

He was talking in his large study in the Sejm (parliament) after hearing Waldegrave, the prime minister, admit that he was still unable to present his cabinet.

Even Mr Pawlak, 33, a sober and solidly imperturbable farmer, gave a warning of chaos around the corner.

"Look," said the president pointing to the coffee cups in front of him. "If my wife came here she would say that this table looks a mess because the dishes have not been set yet. But the table was set by professional waiters who believe it looks all right. It's similar when evaluating chaos and uncertainty — it's a completely subjective judgment."

The absence of a government was not holding up the essential process of reform. "About 40 per cent of small industry is in private hands

The Polish president, in an interview in Warsaw with Roger Boyes, insists that, in spite of appearances to the contrary, his country is not spinning out of control

already. These people simply don't want a government to dislodge them." The Polish authorities were not ordering police into action, as in some Western countries, against protesting farmers blocking the roads. Even the bungled attempt at a political takeover

when Jan Olszewski, the former prime minister, disclosed the secret police backgrounds of key politicians — was, said the president, "a high-quality coup, based on arguments and not force."

It could, in other words, be far worse. But Europe (with Britain now in the pivotal role) had to do its bit to help stabilise the economic and political climate in central Europe. In presenting his government programme (though not his cabinet) yesterday, Mr Pawlak said his priority was to ratify the European Community association agreement with Warsaw. President Walesa went further.

The time had come, he said in the interview, for Europe to "speak less and do more". There was, he acknowledged, a

"and yet when I woke up all bets were off". He did not look at all depressed about this new government failure.

If Mr Pawlak fails — and the president seems to reckon with the possibility — then Mr Walesa has two further options. "The first is that I form a government and appoint a caretaker prime minister. The last option is that I become premier myself." Poland, however, was still some way from the prospect of Mr Walesa taking over the double function of president and prime minister.

No, he emphasised, he was not considering resignation. He understood President Walesa's position and that his Czech colleague might have to step down if he loses Friday's first presidential vote.

"Havel fought for freedom too, but for freedom for the Czechs and the Slovaks living in one state. If that gets out of his control then he would be right in refusing further responsibility," said Mr Walesa.

Poland, however, was not in such a critical condition.

Indeed it was considerably better placed than Czechoslovakia. He would thus stay in the presidency until somebody put forward a plausible and legal alternative. "I really hate this job... but I'm dedicated to it."

Farm subsidy will rise despite reform

BY MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE reform of the European Community's common agricultural policy (CAP), finalised in Luxembourg yesterday, should bring savings on food prices and improve the chances for liberalising world trade, but there will be no immediate cut in the cost of supporting the EC's nine million farmers.

Consumers may well ask what all the fuss has been about as they are unlikely to notice much difference. The changes will be phased in over three years and at best will probably mean that prices will rise slower than they might have done.

Yet the reforms do represent a sharp break with earlier CAP philosophy. Hitherto, the EC has relied almost entirely on the mechanism of farm price support. From now on a large part of the subsidy paid to farmers will come in the form of a direct supplement to their income, which is more visible and manageable.

The old system virtually guaranteed farmers a minimum price for as much as they could produce. Once the price had been set — and political pressures invariably

ensured that it was set too high — almost the only limit on expenditure was the physical exhaustion of farmers, livestock and the land.

At the heart of the reforms is a 29 per cent cut over three years in the cereal support price, with smaller price cuts for beef and dairy farmers. Farmers will be compensated for the cereal price cut by direct grants, which are expected to average £83 an acre in Britain, provided they leave 15 per cent of their arable land fallow each year.

On the face of it, one kind of subsidy would seem merely to have replaced another. Certainly, there will be no immediate relief for the EC taxpayer. The EC's farm budget, which is already running at £23 billion and accounts for nearly two-thirds of all Community expenditure, is expected to go on rising for at least three or four years.

The National Farmers' Union estimates that members will suffer a 16 per cent drop in income by 1997 as a result of the reforms. Independent economists claim that most farmers will be neither much better nor worse off.

Rouble convertibility plans are held back by Russians

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE Russian rouble's chances of taking its place on the free currency markets of the world ebbed further yesterday as the government admitted a huge increase in the domestic money supply and faced pressure to slacken the fiscal reins even further.

Instead of the full convertibility that was to come into effect at the beginning of July, the authorities went ahead with the much more cautious, though still painful enough, step of introducing a single rate for Russian enterprises to buy and sell hard currency. The move will end the old system where corporations with political muscle, starting with the defence sector, could procure dollars at absurdly subsidised rates.

"We are beginning to spend more than we can afford in terms of the need to maintain a stable monetary unit," the prime minister said, only to be urged by Ruslan Khabsulatov, the parliamentary chairman, to slash revenues further by cutting unpopular sales taxes. Parliament adopted a draft budget for the rest of the year on its first reading but can still make substantial changes.

Faced with such profligacy,

the financial world would almost certainly give a massive vote of no confidence to a freely convertible rouble, even if it was backed up by the \$6 billion (£3.1 billion) stabilisation fund which has been promised by the West.

Burgeoning public debt is already having its effect on the restricted foreign exchange market that now functions in Moscow, in the form of small twice-weekly auctions instituted by the central bank. The rouble's rate at these sessions has sagged over the past fortnight to 146 per dollar after holding steady, thanks to relentless central bank intervention, at around 125 for the previous three months.

Russia's commercial banks are holding back from selling foreign exchange, apparently because they feel confident that the rouble will weaken further. The central bank has also slackened its efforts to prop up the Russian currency. One reason for this is that the auctions were being used by other Soviet republics to buy "cheap" dollars which could then immediately be resold at a profit in Kiev or Minsk.

At the same time, the continuing emphasis on spending in eastern Germany is designed to accelerate the difficult process of unification, which has been causing so many domestic problems for Herr Kohl and his government.

Letters, page 15

Germany sets record budget

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY'S cabinet yesterday approved a tough draft budget for next year which is meant to convince the world that Germany's days as a big spender are over. It nevertheless involves record expenditure of 435.65 billion marks (£15 billion). Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, said one mark in five would be spent on rebuilding the east.

There have been widespread savings, among them a small cut from the European fighter aircraft project. Germany is still committed to contribute up to 3 billion marks towards the plane's development costs between now and 1999, but the decision to neither buy nor build the aircraft in its present form is meant to silence strong public disapproval of all post-Cold War defence spending.

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Letters, page 15

Moldavia elects new leader to curb war

BY MARY DEJEVSKY IN KISHINEV AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MOLDAVIA chose a new prime minister yesterday to grapple with its ethnic and economic problems amid fresh fighting between government forces and Russian separatists.

Andrei Sangu, approved by 185 out of 244 deputies in parliament, pledged to take emergency measures to "stop the war against our country" and settle the dispute over the Russian breakaway Transdniestrian mini-republic by negotiation.

His appointment came as President Snegur of Moldavia announced yesterday that he was to meet President Yeltsin in Moscow on Sunday to discuss how to enforce the ceasefire agreed last week in Istanbul. Mr Snegur also said that Moldavia would resist attempts by Transdniestria

leaders and certain groups in Russia and Ukraine to remove Romania from the peace process.

At present, the violence in Transdniestria is discussed at a four-party forum in which the Romanian foreign minister takes an equal place alongside his Moldavian, Russian and Ukrainian counterparts.

Mr Snegur, who was talking to an invited group of Moldavian and foreign reporters in Kishinev, expressed satisfaction with the views given by Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, in an interview with *Izvestia* newspaper yesterday. He described Mr Kozyrev's approach as "sensible" and "sober-minded" and noted that it differed from views expressed by other Russian leaders. In the article, the Russian foreign minister appeared to condemn Alexander Rutskoi, the vice-president, and certain military leaders who have recommended that Russia take a more aggressive approach to regional disputes.

Moldavia accuses the former Soviet 14th army, now under Russian jurisdiction but still based on Moldavian soil, of fighting alongside separatist Slavs and former communists demanding independence for the eastern Transdniestrian region.

Transdniestria, which has an ethnic Romanian majority, was effectively at war with Russia.

Transdniestria authorities remain sceptical that the convoy from Croatia will have a smooth passage to the airport itself, as there are numerous Bosnian Serb checkpoints to manoeuvre.

UN officials privately remain sceptical that the convoy from Croatia will have a smooth passage to the airport itself, as there are numerous Bosnian Serb checkpoints to manoeuvre.

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UN commander braves snipers to survey Sarajevo

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN SARAJEVO



Mackenzie: used helicopter on visit

with over 1,000 fellow Canadian soldiers mobilised from their barracks in Croatia, where over 100 military

French specialists are working around the clock to get the control tower functioning again to allow relief flights to resume.

UN officials say they are hopeful that the Canadian convoy will speed the process of bringing relief to the city. So far only four French relief planes have managed to get in, and one of those flew out yesterday morning carrying the helicopter used by President Mitterrand on his visit.

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ANC gives go-ahead for the Olympics

THE African National Congress announced yesterday that it would not oppose the participation of South African athletes at the Barcelona Olympics later this month, but cast doubt on other international sporting contacts.

As African heads of state met in Dakar, Senegal, to discuss their response to the stalled constitutional negotiations in South Africa and the massacre in Boipatong township on June 17, the ANC said in Johannesburg that "all current pre-arranged fixtures will go ahead." But it added that no new tours or sporting contacts should be negotiated. The statement ended speculation that the ANC wanted South Africa cast back into the sporting wilderness.

A United Nations initiative in the South African reform process was looking likely after representatives of 51 states at the Organisation of African Unity summit in Dakar said that they looked forward to a permanent UN presence in South Africa. They backed Nelson Mandela's condemnation of the President de Klerk's government's role in the massacre.

UN participation is looking likely in attempts to break the impasse in the South African negotiations, writes Sam Kiley, Africa correspondent

and its alleged involvement in township violence. But the OAU, many of whose members wish to develop trading links with South Africa, did not call for sporting, cultural or economic boycotts.

OAU leaders also backed calls for the UN to assume a mediating role in trying to bring the African National Congress and Pretoria back to the negotiating table. Dr Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, has accepted an invitation to visit South Africa and moderate said they hoped his arrival in South Africa might strengthen Mr de Klerk's hand against rogue elements of the state security apparatus accused of being behind many atrocities in South Africa. "It seems, and I want to be

very precise, that there is a consensus for a UN presence," Dr Boutros Ghali said, noting that he had met with the ANC, the South African government and other groups. He said that he would raise the matter in the security council next week but added that it was too early to say what form the UN presence would take.

This week more than 100 South African companies have been displaying their wares in Nairobi. Hundreds of Kenyans have been pouring into the exhibition hall to see South African technology and sample Castle Lager. The Kenyan government, which has backed the exhibition with enthusiasm, hopes to steal a trade march on other African countries.

Describing Mr de Klerk's dilemma, a senior member of the South African diplomatic corps said: "On the one hand he does not appear to be able to stop these terrible atrocities. On the other he has to have cast iron proof that they are being committed by members of the security services before he can move against them. A pre-emptive strike would be disastrous."



Young gun: Captain Valentine Strasser, 27, Sierra Leone's new military leader, talking at the Organisation of African Unity summit in Dakar, Senegal. He is one of the youngest leaders to address the OAU

Aid ship arrives in Aden

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN ADEN, YEMEN

A FRENCH navy ship arrived yesterday with 30 tons of badly needed food, medicine, blankets and tents for thousands of Somali refugees. It was the first such operation by a Western nation since the influx of Somalis to Yemen began months ago.

The shipment was brought from France's naval base at Djibouti aboard a 195ft, 280-ton landing craft. A United Nations official in Aden said that the supplies would be distributed to the tens of thousands of Somalis in the Aden area. Priority would be given to nearly 4,000 who have been crammed into a squalid beach camp since they arrived on board two crowded ships last week.

• Harare: Zimbabwe is to provide a meal a day to 750,000 children under five who are facing starvation because of drought, John Nkomo, the social welfare minister, announced yesterday. The number of children needing the food is expected to rise to more than a million by September, he said. (AP)

A butter-like taste without the butts (No wonder the knives are out for us.)

As you've probably heard, some people (including a certain food lobby) find our name a bit hard to stomach. Could it be they're afraid of a little healthy competition?

After all, 'I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!' is a spread high in polyunsaturates, low in saturates and with virtually no cholesterol.

On the other hand, it's made with buttermilk. And we like to think it has a fresh, butter-like taste.

Judging from public response, it seems a lot of you agree. So much so, we're now introducing a 1kg tub to sit beside our double pack.

Now you can really start putting the knife in.



Violence takes toll of both sides in township conflict

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

On a front page this week, *The Star*, a Johannesburg daily, printed a picture of a man with a machete hacking at the body of another who, it said, had been beaten senseless and shot.

After the photographer had been chased away at gunpoint, the wounded man was "necklaced": in a technique invented by the ANC, a tyre soaked in petrol was placed around him and he was burnt. The incident took place during Monday's mass funeral for the victims of the Boipatong massacre. The dead man was said to have been a member of the Inkatha Freedom party.

The mainly Zulu party is blamed for many acts of terror against township dwellers in the southern Transvaal and Natal. The inhabitants of the KwaMandala hostel just outside Boipatong, a refuge for Zulus, are blamed for the deaths and injuries on the night of June 17.

What is not so widely reported is that Boipatong was no isolated incident nor is the violence one-sided. The previous weekend, three people were murdered in the township because of presumed links with Inkatha.

One was a woman named Nomvula, who had been going out with a hostel resident. Another was David Mbela, 37, a teacher who was known locally as "a real Zulu". His home was attacked by a large crowd on the Saturday, and he was shot while running away. The badly charred body of a third person, B. L. Khumalo, an Inkatha member, was retrieved by police from his burnt-out car on Sunday.

None of this excuses the

dreadful events of June 17. But it goes little way to explaining them. It is also worth pointing out that while the massacre of Boipatong has brought a host of international anti-apartheid dignitaries to the country, has resulted in the breakdown of talks with the government on a new constitution, and a renewal of the moratorium on international sporting contacts, and may well prove to have been a turning point in South Africa's history, a similar massacre two months earlier produced no such effect.

The April atrocity took place at the Crossroads squatter camp near Germiston, east of here. Twenty-three people, including women and children, were killed when migrant workers swarmed out of the Katalo hostel on the night of April 7. No local or international figures showed much interest.

In Boipatong, the ANC rules. Inkatha is the dominant political organisation in Crossroads. The killers in Boipatong were said to have been Zulus. At Crossroads they were said to have been "ghost-speaking", thinly disguised code for ANC members.

Inkatha does not have the international appeal of the ANC. Indeed, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, its leader, was forced to cut short a visit to America because of hostility to its role in the violence.

Inkatha members have a great deal to answer for, but it's worth repeating that the violence in South African township mayhem is not all one way.

Police open fire on Cape Town march

FROM REUTER IN CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African police fired shotguns and plastic bullets at black anti-government demonstrators in central Cape Town yesterday. Several people in the crowd of about 4,000 were wounded.

Trouble erupted when marchers surrounded a white man alone in a car, beating on the roof and kicking the sides. The driver crashed through the crowd in apparent panic, knocking down at least one of the leaders of the march.

In Johannesburg, South Africa's largest trade union organisation said it will launch a general strike of "unprecedented proportions" on August 3 unless the government acts "definitively" to speed democratic reforms.

Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the 1.3 million-strong Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), told news conference yesterday: "We are determined to move this government from power." He said that the strike would be part of the mass pro-democracy campaign launched by the ANC.

can National Congress on June 16 to demand government action to end violence in the townships and to implement speedy constitutional reforms.

Cosatu listed eight demands, including majority rule, an end to political violence, wage increases above the rate of inflation, lower food prices and an end to redundancies. Mr Naidoo said the organisation had taken the decision at an executive meeting attended by leaders of the ANC and the South African Communist party.

He reiterated a call for the closure of hostels associated with township violence, an end-to-cover operations by the white-led security forces and agreement by Pretoria to negotiations and anti-apartheid groups in economic planning. But Nico Cypriano, chief economist at Standard Bank, one of the country's five biggest, said he did not believe that a general strike was sustainable beyond two days because workers could be subject to summary dismissal.

Boudiaf funeral is grim reminder of an Islamic time-bomb



Boudiaf: mourned as Algeria's last hope

HUNDREDS of thousands of people lined the streets of Algiers yesterday for the funeral of Muhammad Boudiaf, their assassinated president. Emotions were high and one of his colleagues from the war of independence died of a heart attack.

Special security measures were in force. Police officers lined the route of the funeral procession and a military helicopter hovered overhead. The authorities were determined that the funeral should not become the target of terrorist attack.

Shortly after midday the coffin was carried from the presidential palace to an army lorry at the start of its progress through Algiers. Behind the hearse was a second army lorry laden with

wreaths followed by a long line of black official cars.

People living in and around Algiers were given the afternoon off and hundreds of thousands turned out to pay tribute to one of the men who led the country to independence. The mood of indifference that had reigned in Algiers since Monday was broken as people cheered and waved Algerian flags as the cortège made its way through the city. Young men ran alongside and behind.

"He was our last hope and Algeria is now lost," one said. "There is nothing we can do now, just pray to God."

The funeral procession reached the grand mosque at Martyrs' Square accompanied by a large crowd singing and chanting "Chadli assass-

Emotional scenes yesterday bore witness to the dangers confronting the Arab world, write Alfred Hermida in Algiers and Christopher Walker in Cairo

sin". Chadli Benjedid was the former president who is blamed for the country's drift into chaos.

After a brief ceremony at the mosque Mr Boudiaf's body was taken to the national cemetery for burial. Ceremonial drummers led the procession, followed by government ministers and visiting dignitaries. Among them were Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, and Yassir Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Uncertainty still surrounds who was behind the assassination. At least 12 people have been arrested. Initial suspicion fell on the country's Islamic fundamentalist movement, which was prevented from taking power when the military called off elections at the beginning of the year. But a spokesman for the main Muslim party, the banned Islamic Salvation Front, denied involvement.

Mr Boudiaf's funeral was the grimdest reminder yet of the Islamic time-bomb now ticking under authoritarian Arab regimes from the Gulf to the Atlantic. The recognition of the danger was highlighted when both Egypt and Iraq, bitter foes in the Gulf war, separately declared three-day mourning periods for a man their people hardly knew.

Western concern is greatest for Egypt, which is pivotal to the revived efforts to bring peace to the Middle East. In recent weeks it has seen an escalation in the war against fundamentalism, with the assassination of Farag Foda, the secularist writer, the arrest of 500 Islamic suspects, the seizure of 470 illegal weapons, and a terrorist attack on the Karnak temple.

Even before the shock waves sent through Egypt by

Mr Boudiaf's death, the Cairo government was planning draconian new laws against fundamentalists. These will supersede the emergency law introduced in 1981. Among other things they will extend the 45-day period for legal detention without trial.

Liberals have opposed the move, urging instead more democracy as a weapon against Muslim militants. But officials claim that whenever Western-style freedoms have been offered in the Arab world it is the fundamentalists who have profited.

The hereditary rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have both said that Western democracy is incompatible with Islam. Tunisia, the country most likely to be af-

fected by the violence in Algeria, was furious at the decision to allow the Islamic Salvation Front to contest the now-annulled December poll. A policy of repression was then already under way in Tunisia, with the main Islamic movement El-Nahda ("The Awakening") banned, mass arrests and harassment of those wearing beards or veils.

In Libya, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi has imprisoned hundreds of fundamentalists. Should his regime be toppled by United Nations sanctions over Lockerbie, even his critics believe Islamic militants will benefit.

Small wonder, then, that the question being asked in the nervous atmosphere after Mr Boudiaf's funeral is: how long can the lid be kept on?

NEWS IN BRIEF

Collor goes on the air

FROM MICHAEL KEPPE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

PRESIDENT Collor de Mello of Brazil addressed the nation on television to refute charges that he was involved in illicit deals with his former campaign fundraiser.

The scandal emerged last month when President Collor's younger brother Pedro accused Paulo Cesar Farias, the president's campaign fund manager of graft, influence peddling, diverting campaign funds and receiving illegal commissions from government contracts.

Four days later, reportedly at the urging of his mother, the younger Collor backed away from accusing his 42-year-old brother of complicity, saying only that he failed to control Senator Farias.

But his accusations triggered a congressional enquiry and several other former government officials and businessmen have backed up the charges against Senator Farias before congressional investigators.

The latest and perhaps the most damaging blow to the president occurred on Sunday when *Isto E*, a top news magazine, reported that Senator Farias paid for the running costs of the president's mansion and for the personal expenses of Rosane Collor, his wife.

President Collor adamantly denied these new allegations in his speech.

Plotters freed

Port of Spain: Trinidad freed 114 Muslim coup plotters after a judge ruled that an amnesty granted while they held government leaders at gunpoint in 1990 was valid and they could not be tried for murder and treason. (AP)

Tamil battle

Colombo: Fighting in northern Sri Lanka has left more than 260 Tamil guerrillas and 33 soldiers dead. Most were killed outside Vellaikeri, a security forces beachhead at the neck of the Jaffna peninsula. (AFP)

Reprieve for 12

Lagos: Death sentences passed four years ago on 12 men for armed robbery have been commuted by the governor of this Nigerian state. One of the 12 was reported to have died in prison in 1990 from tuberculosis. (Reuters)

Wife deported

Wellington: A Chinese woman, convicted of disemboweling her husband, is to be deported to China even though she could be retried there for the offence and is now married to a New Zealander. (AFP)

Judges shot

Fort Worth: Two people, believed to be lawyers, were killed and three judges were wounded when a spectator opened fire in a courthouse of this Texas city. The killer, a middle-aged man, escaped in the confusion. (Reuters)

Rapist elected

Port Moresby: A convicted rapist and three former ministers, charged with corruption, have been elected so far in Papua New Guinea's polls while Robbie Namaliu, the prime minister, has lost a third of his cabinet. (AFP)

Cuban escapes

West Palm Beach, Florida: A Cuban who fled his country on an inner tube told the yachismen who rescued him that he saw two fellow escapees drown and another two drift away during his week-long ordeal. (AFP)

Setback for Rabin's coalition as key parties reject policy

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S victorious Labour Party suffered a setback yesterday in its efforts to form a broad-based coalition when two key smaller parties on the right and left rejected a Labour policy document for a future government.

The left-wing Meretz party, which won 12 seats in last week's election, and the right-wing Tsomet party, with eight, complained that Labour's guidelines for the next government were too vague on the key issue of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

In particular, Meretz accused Yitzhak Rabin of fudging

the issue of a freeze on the expansion of the communities, while Tsomet, headed by the former general Rafael Eitan, said the text failed to safeguard adequately the country's security needs.

Shulamit Aloni, the Meretz leader, criticised the draft platform for suggesting that a future government would "strengthen settlements along confrontation lines", a vague phrase that could be interpreted as "encouraging Jewish colonisation of the occupied territories". "I do not think this is acceptable to us," she said. "We are not sure we want to sit in such a government."

Her views were echoed by Mr Eitan, whose party supports the settler movement.

"We cannot agree to guidelines that differ substantially from our platform," he said.

"We must examine what 'confrontation line' means...

...We are not going to negotiate at any price."

Similarly, if he carries out his promise to bolster Jewish frontier settlements along the Jordanian and Syrian borders, he will need the support of Tsomet and the religious parties to protect him against left-wing objections.

When it comes to introducing legislation to curb the power of the rabbis and recruit yeshiva (religious Jewish) students into the army, he will then look to the two secular parties in his government to give him the necessary majority.

The parties seem reluctant to submit themselves to Mr Rabin's divide-and-rule tactics, but pundits predict that most or all the smaller groups will swallow their pride and accept places in the cabinet on Labour's terms. With Likud still in disarray over its electoral defeat, there are few parties that would happily join the opposition.

leaving four parties before parliament reopens on July 13. Aside from Meretz and Tsomet, Labour also wants to attract two ultra-Orthodox religious groups, Shas, with six seats, and United Torah Judaism, with four.

According to Israeli analysts Mr Rabin hopes to include as many parties in his government as possible to give him greater flexibility. For instance, when he resumes negotiations with the Palestinians, with the intention of holding elections in the occupied territories and introducing self-rule for the 1.7 million Arab inhabitants, he will need the support of the left and religious parties to overcome the objections of the right.

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Gun law: a robber beating a van driver with the butt of his pistol during a hold-up in Montreal, Canada. The man had an accomplice waiting in a car and they escaped with about \$30,000 (£16,500), police said

Weary Bush laments press ingratitude

The embattled US president is losing votes, his bearings and his temper. Martin Fletcher writes in Washington

asked why the administration appeared adrift. "Why is it these people are not asking me all of this?" Mr Bush retorted, gesturing towards the tourists. Why did the journalists always ask controversial questions "when all the American people want to know is what I am doing about their problems?"

The outbursts betrayed what is becoming increasingly apparent to those who watch Mr Bush closely. Stuck in the polls, unable to find a winning strategy, he has grown angry, frustrated and, some say, worn to an emotional frazzle.

"I have worked my heart out as president of the United

States," he complained bitterly while he was in Detroit on Monday. "I'm getting a little sick of being on the receiving end of criticism, day in and day out."

Like all politicians in trouble, he is roundly on the media. The economy was recovering but "92 per cent of the news on the economy is negative," 92 per cent. What kind of reporting is that?

Tuesday's *Washington Post* exemplified his frustrations. The ground-breaking US-Russian summit had given him no lift at all. The White House offensive against Ross Perot the previous week had indeed hurt the Texas tycoon, but merely

drove his disaffected supporters to Bill Clinton, the Democratic candidate, pushing Mr Bush into third place.

Commentators see two fundamental problems. Firstly, his advisers are telling him to launch himself into the campaign now, while the other half insists he should remain presidential until after the Republican convention in August. At the moment he is doing neither one thing nor the other.

In his search for a compelling platform, *The Washington Post* reported yesterday, Mr Bush has successfully defined himself this week as "the education president, the welfare reform president, the anti-crime president, the White House against-Congress president, the values president, the foreign policy president and, finally, the one candidate with the character to be president".

Breaches sent noxious fumes drifting along Superior's shoreline and down inland waterways in northwest Wisconsin and northeast Minnesota. Two dozen people suffered minor lung, eye and skin injuries. A state of emergency was declared. Half Duluth's population of 85,000 left the town. Hundreds of people sought sanctuary in schools, shopping precincts and a national guard barracks. Towns along the bay separating the ports of Duluth and Superior were badly affected by the fumes. Several nursing homes were also evacuated.

The tanker, which was one of 14 to be derailed, released 21,000 of the 24,000 gallons of benzene and mixed chemicals it was carrying. Benzene evaporates quickly and is a known cancer-causing agent.

Cleaning teams led by the US Coast Guard had to wear respirators when approaching the wrecked tanker which blocked part of a river, the Nemadji, a tributary of Lake Superior. The Coast Guard set up booms in the lake to contain the chemical. Environmentalists were concerned that walleye, bass and pike stocks in the Nemadji could be affected by the spill.

Benzene spill forces evacuation of towns

BY JAMIE DETTMER

MORE than 70,000 people fled along Wisconsin's Lake Superior shoreline after a tanker attached to a derailed freight train plunged off a trestle, ruptured and spilled thousands of gallons of benzene into a river.

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have still not decided how to divide up the proceeds.

In the Grand Canyon, a posse of 200 police officers with tracker dogs is combing the valleys and forests in pursuit of an escaped convict whose use of survival techniques and extraordinary ability to evade capture for nearly two months has earned him the nickname "Rambo" and the admiration of many Americans — other than those living near the country's most famous natural landmark.

Danny Ray Hornung, 33, sentenced to four life terms for aggravated assault, kidnapping and armed robbery, has been living rough in the

northern Arizona wilderness since he escaped from a state prison in Florence, Arizona, on May 12 by disguising himself in a medical laboratory coat.

Using techniques learned in the army, he has confused bloodhounds and taunted his trackers with wry notes left in stolen cars and buried houses.

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Bidders stake £2m on a lottery ticket that cannot lose

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Ben Macintyre

A cautionary American tale involving drama, greed and many lawyers was concluded in a New York courtroom yesterday with the first sale of a lottery ticket that cannot lose.

The ticket, officially worth about \$3.8 million (£2 million), payable in 16 annual instalments of \$240,245

Missing the fast train to Europe

Richard Hope on bureaucratic rules that threaten a new era of rail travel

Sir Bob Reid, British Rail's chairman, yesterday predicted a slide from "deterioration to delapidation to danger" if vital investment is not forthcoming. Uncertainties over privatisation are at the root of the problem, and a number of key projects are in jeopardy. Nor is this just a British phenomenon. Demands that private companies should be allowed to compete with state railways are threatening investment throughout the EC.

Citizens of Glasgow, Cardiff and Plymouth who imagined that they could hop on a train to Paris in a year or two have been deceived. Only a few months before the Channel tunnel opens the long-promised trains have still not been ordered. Why? Because EC bureaucrats in Brussels have decided that agreements between state railways to provide international services are anti-competitive and therefore illegal.

Last February, two years behind schedule, the British, Belgian, French, German and Dutch railways announced a £125 million order for 139 coaches for overnight services to the Continent, the only trains to serve many provincial centres like Bristol. But before a contract with manufacturer GEC Alsthom could be signed, the EC's Directorate-General 4 under Sir Leon Brittan stepped in. Its function is to sniff out cosy arrangements by which suppliers rig the market. Sir Leon reasoned that as nobody else has the right to run trains between Glasgow and Brussels, the state railways should be prevented from doing so.

This is not the only rail investment project to collapse in recent weeks. The government's refusal to fund extension of the Jubilee tube line through Canary Wharf, following Olympia & York's failure to provide promised contributions, was well publicised. Less well known is the fate that overtook a £75 million electrification scheme joining Leeds to Bradford, Ilkley and Skipton. In February, Sir Bob Reid attended a bogus "start-of-work" ceremony in Leeds, where an electrification mast was erected. However, no contract has been placed for this work, nor have the trains been ordered. West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive had hoped to lease the trains, but with a white paper on rail privatisation imminent, the leasing company is demanding guarantees of repayment if the service is sold off or franchised. Since the government has refused to underwrite the deal, no contracts can be placed.

BR's plans to upgrade its main InterCity corridor from London to Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow are also in ruins. Manufacturers who sank £5 million into preparing competing designs for the IC 250 trains now see little prospect of orders. With privatisation on the agenda, the Treasury will only agree to the basic



Golden Arrow: when the going was good

investment required to keep track and signalling safe.

Finally, there is the tragicomedy of the Channel tunnel rail link. BR is dutifully going through the motions of designing a £4 billion route to King's Cross through East London, knowing full well that the government's demand that it be privately financed lies far beyond what the City considers feasible.

While the circumstances differ widely, lying behind these project failures is the near impossibility of injecting private investment into an industry which has no legal framework to protect the earning capacity of assets. So long as the national railway owns the track, controls access and sets charges, there can be no "open access".

What Sir Leon Brittan is demanding as his price for agreeing to the overnight train deal is that the five railways concerned should immediately throw open their networks to anybody who wants to run trains, anywhere, any time. He apparently fails to recognise that no legislation is in place to make this possible; it is promised in Britain, but we have no details.

In principle, an entrepreneur with a deep pocket might step in and take over the GEC Alsthom contract.

But he would face months of negotiation with the five railways and Eurotunnel to establish his contractual rights. Even then, presumably, he would face the possibility of competition from a rival operator.

As to the high speed trains ordered in 1989 for the London-Paris/Brussels service, a well-placed source within DG4 professed total ignorance when asked about this contract. In contrast, Eurotunnel's chief executive, Sir Alastair Morton, told shareholders on June 26 that DG4 was apparently under the impression that he intended to operate motorail trains from London into Europe. Faced with such breathtaking ignorance and incompetence, it is small wonder that Brussels has acquired a reputation for bureaucratic blundering.

Yes, the time has come to break up the state railway monoliths. Open access and privatisation are vital elements, but they can only be applied when legislation has put in place the rules and regulators needed. Only then can the private sector move in to invest with some assurance that the earning capacity of fixed and mobile assets will be protected.

Meanwhile, whether in Brussels or our own Department of Transport, common sense demands that rail investment be allowed to proceed as normal. If MPs representing the cities affected make approval for the overnight trains a condition for supporting Maastricht, they might still be rescued.

The author is consultant editor of *Railway Gazette*.

The case of an anorexic in danger of starvation raises profound moral issues, writes Alan Ryan

Is there a duty to live?

The Court of Appeal's decision that a 16-year-old anorexic girl can be treated against her will comes hard on the heels of the United States Supreme Court's equivocal decision about abortion rights and the state's right to force women to bear the children they have conceived. Both show up in a glaring light our difficulties with ideas about the right to life, and the right to die. We can recite A.H. Clough's little couplet: "Thou shalt not kill, but need'st not strive / Officially to keep alive", but we fall to quarrelling about what is "official" and when official becomes something like tyranny.

The 16-year-old's age is not the most important thing about her case. If she were over 18, she could still be kept alive against her will if a court declared her of unsound mind — and it is hard to imagine a court deciding that the mind of a young woman who had set out slowly to starve herself to death was anything other than unsound.

What is important is our conviction that life itself cannot simply be rejected. Most of us agree that some suicides are rational. Elderly people suffering from painful and incurable diseases may decide

that an overdose of sleeping tablets is better than lingering extinction, but that choice is less between life and death than between slow death and quicker death. The young woman whom the Court of Appeal forces to go on living against her will wants to make a different choice: she rejects life.

Talk of the "right to life" is wholly unhelpful in cases like this. We would force parents to feed their children in the name of the children's right to life; we would force parents who disapprove of various kinds of medical treatment to get such treatment for their children in the name of the children's right to life. But when the Court of Appeal tells the young woman that she will be kept alive against her will, it is not protecting her right to life but forcing upon her a duty to go on living.

Rights are something we can stand on, waive, and take more or less seriously; there are cases where we have both rights and duties. We have a legal duty to

keep the car we own in safe running order, for instance, but a person who was forced to go on owning a car he wanted to sell would think this an odd way of recognising his rights as an owner.

What Lord Donaldson's decision raises is the question whether there is a "duty to live".

It is not such an odd question as one might think. Though many writers have thought that human beings have an intense and overwhelming urge for self-preservation, great many have not. The great French sociologist Emile Durkheim wrote *Suicide* a hundred years ago precisely because he thought it was too easy for us to become disgusted with life, to want to kill ourselves, to have done with the whole business. He thought the force of the emotions that drive decisions like that of the Court of Appeal reflects a desperate urge to hang on to our fellows. In every society, he claimed, there were strict rules against suicide, at any rate against suicides based

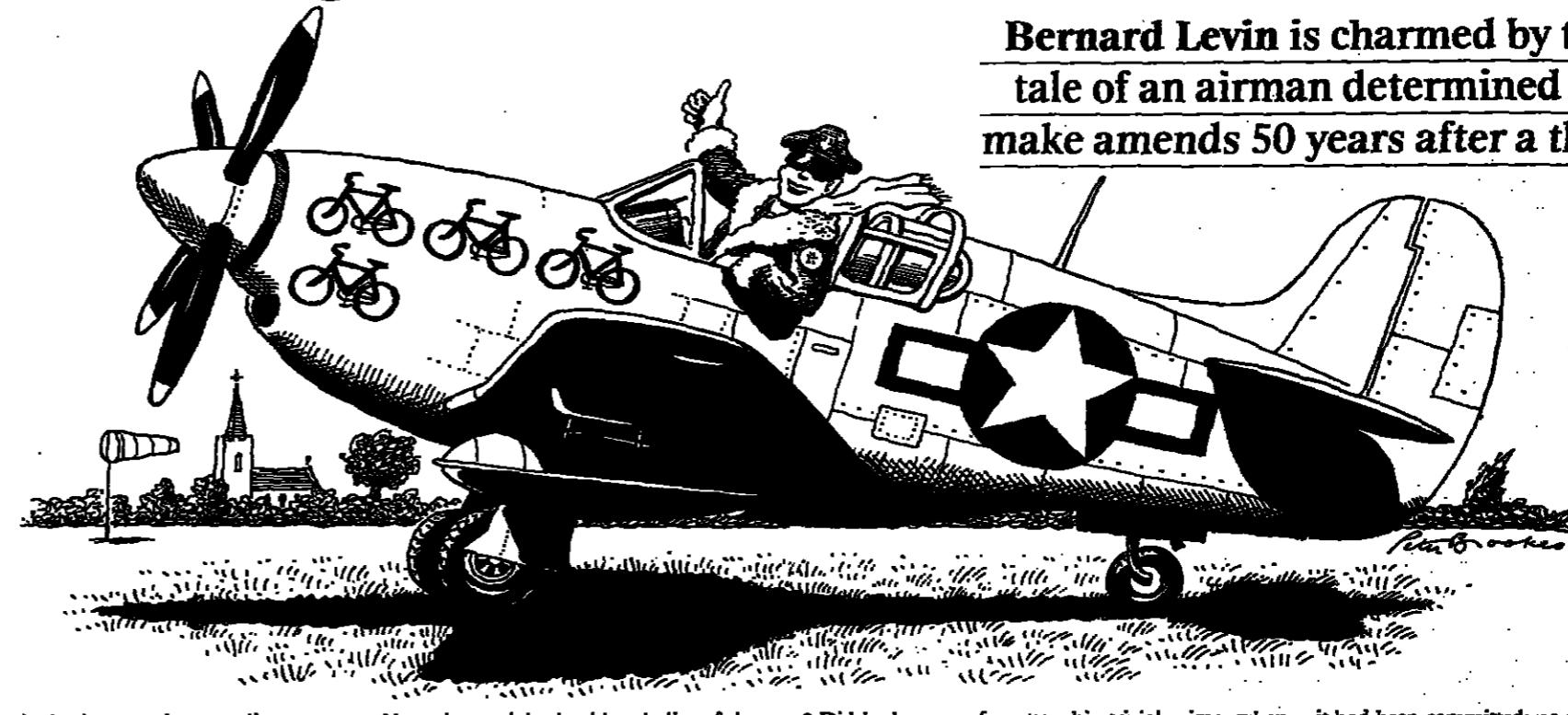
extreme. Often, what they are saying is closer to "get lost". All too frequently, would-be suicides are so convinced that life is intolerable that this is the only message they wish to convey. Talk of ones for help is too optimistic. We mind as much as we do about suicides precisely because we are so willing to help; what we cannot bear is being told that there is nothing we can do.

The aggressive tone of Lord Donaldson's judgment — his insistence that the young woman's wishes just don't matter — shows all too clearly how far it is our discomfort rather than hers that drives our response. There could hardly be a more considered, more reiterated insistence that she wishes to be gone than her slow self-starvation. And it is just because there is so little to say to such a decision that we find ourselves, so to speak, grabbing her by the wrist and yelling that we shan't let her slide over the edge. This is where "whose life is it anyway?" collides with the thought that none of us is an island.

The author is professor of philosophy at Princeton University.

Caught in a cycle of guilt

Bernard Levin is charmed by the tale of an airman determined to make amends 50 years after a theft



I don't know why novelists bother; anyone capable of throwing a bag of peanuts out of the window can be sure of hitting at least a dozen people who, from their own experience, can tell stories very much more remarkable than the latest dreadful Booker winner.

Just read this nearly invisible news item:

Mr Roger Johnson, a former American airman who stole a cycle while stationed at Polebrook, Northants, during the second world war, will make amends today by presenting 90 new ones costing nearly £10,000 to local children.

Thirty-six words, and a thousand and one Arabian nights to make magic tales out of them! There is not another word of explanation, no promise of further revelations, no startling denouement to await. So much the better: we can speculate freely, unhindered by facts.

Imagine the young airman (no veteran he), perhaps including in his duties night flights over Germany; he would certainly have noted the number of aircrafts — many of them his friends as well as his colleagues — who did not

return. Next time might be his last; if life itself is as cheap as that, surely bicycles should be given away free?

Why did he want a bicycle, anyway? That's easy: he was in a strange country, and being an imaginative young man, wanted to fit his few leisure hours by exploring his surroundings. He couldn't run to a car (and even if he could, petrol rationing precluded sightseeing); I don't know Northamptonshire's rural delights, but I assume that they were sufficiently interesting for him to pedal about in them. Did he come from a sleepy rural state, so that what he saw could be recognisable, or from the heart of downtown bustling Detroit to find woods and fields all around him? I have assumed, so far, that his theft did not greatly disturb him. Did he have a qualm, though, when one of his mates, or a senior officer, asked where he got it? Surely not. He, his friends and his superiors all had more things on their minds than the provenance of bicycles.

Some of these things on their minds concerned neither bicycles nor bombs: what about the young ladies of the area? Did he have a girl back home in Kansas or New York? And if so... well, did he have something more significant to feel guilty about than bicycles? Or did he have a photograph in his breast pocket, which he took out and kissed, particularly when he was taking off for a journey that might be his last? For that matter, did he have a rabbit's paw in one of his other pockets? *Jeep not you beastly rationalists*: I read once of a wartime airman who never flew without a pair of his girlfriend's stockings around his neck, and he lived to tell the tale.

Well, the war ended, and our hero survived it. He went home, and made a life for himself. Presumably he married and had children. Clearly, he prospered. But, as with the princess and the pea, there was something amiss. Did the theft of the bicycle get into his dreams? Did he think that if he died abruptly, say in a car crash, he would not have time to seek confession and absolution? More dramatically, had he long ago

forgotten his trivial crime, when suddenly, because of some oblique mention, it leaped into his mind?

Yet there is a great gulf between remembering a peccadillo from half a century ago and determining to put it right. And how handsomely right! Ten thousand pounds worth of brand new, state-of-the-art bicycles, to be distributed among 90 of the children of Polebrook, Northants, where Christmas comes twice this year.

A child at the time of the Great Bicycle Robbery would be about to draw the State Retirement Pension (the Old Age Pension) it was called then, though later that was felt to be too downmarket; two or three generations have grown up since some one limped home on foot, and the world has gone round nearly twenty thousand times. Yet are not five spartans sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

In this case, however, God made no sign: the sinner took it upon himself to make amends. No matter that Polebrook had obviously forgotten the sin a week after it had been committed: no matter that the Polebrokers would have looked upon the American airmen as heroes coming to the succour of the old country; no matter that if he had asked politely for a bicycle, a dozen would have been preferred: fifty years on, Jimmy Cricket gave a little whistle, "and always let your conscience be your guide". Mr Johnson's conscience is clean; truly, it was hardly even smudged in the first place. And 90 Polebrook children will be sporting handsome new bicycles. All's well that ends well.

We all have dim corners in our lives, and most of us have one or two that are not just dim, but truly dark. Most can be illuminated somehow, but a few cannot, and we must take them to the grave. But Mr Johnson has turned his into a shining triumph. Remember, he didn't rob a bank or break a head. He stole a bicycle, lived with the knowledge, and made amends exactly 90 times over. Polebrook should honour him in a fitting manner. Why not an explanatory plaque on the village fountain, with a bicycle chained to it? Surely no one would steal it.



...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

The day before yesterday I described the first course of my delicious luncheon at the table of Lord Halibut, in the company of four éminences grises who converted from left to right under the divine influence of Mrs Thatcher.

"To accompany the second course," breathed Lord Halibut contentedly, "I have selected a little something from 1979, the year of Margaret's first great election victory."

Our tastebuds quivered. "A little Duru Beauchaffou, perhaps?" asked the distinguished novelist Sir Barnabas Kipper, licking his lips.

"No. We don't talk any more," by Cliff Richard," replied Halibut, motioning towards the record-player. "Great hair, no drugs: what could one ask?"

While Cliff Richard belted out his up-tempo number, the talk turned to the influence each of these four great intellectuals had brought to bear on Mrs Thatcher and her policies.

"I'd pick up the phone and speak to her at least twice a week at 7.30 am. Advice and encouragement, encouragement and advice," boasted Lord Halibut.

"Marvellous," trilled Professor Septimus Cod. "And what would she usually reply?"

"Funny enough, always the same," replied Lord Halibut. "She'd say 'at the third stroke, it will be seven thirty-one precisely'. I think it was her way of tipping me the wink that she was taking my advice without in

any way offending her political colleagues. Tactful girl, Margaret Scotch egg, anyone?"

The celebrated polemicist Arnold Stoot, whose famous *Gloat with Stoot* political column is now in its twelfth year, chipped in to boast that Mrs Thatcher was one of his keenest readers.

"You can always be sure that what the ordinary bloke thought yesterday, Arnold Stoot will be thinking tomorrow," she had said of him at the Press Club of Great Britain in 1983, before awarding him the special Press Club trophy for effort, along with the improvement prize for spelling.

"That's something Margaret's always admired about me, too," chipped in Lord Halibut, handing round the Scotch eggs. "I've always been able to let her know exactly what the ordinary bloke is up to. Your ordinary bloke in the low paid professions won't take bossing around, you know. He's an independent fellow who likes to be in charge, and quite right too." Halibut blew a sizable puff from his slim panatella, and then looked around in agitation. "Where the hell's my butter? I never know what on earth the hell's up to! Who's boss around here, that's what I'd like to know. Makes one wonder why one pays them so little."

"As we made light work of the Wall's Vienetta, each one of our delightful company reminisced over Mrs Thatcher's greatest achievements. "Before her arrival, marvellous old-fashioned Anglo-Saxon expressions like

Green thought in a grey world

MINISTERS are considering a plan to turn the notorious Marsham Street office complex, which currently houses the environment and transport departments, into a landscaped garden. They are coming under pressure from the Royal Fine Art Commission to organise a public competition for the redevelopment when the three towers are demolished next year.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, has appointed Montagu Evans, chartered surveyors, to advise the government. But the Commission is lobbying ministers against an office development, and MPs have added their voices to a campaign to create a green oasis among Westminster's drab concrete.

Lord St John of Fawley, president of the Commission, says: "Everyone is aware of the horrors of the Marsham Street site. Those mistakes must not be repeated. It will be an important test case of the government's commitment to the environment and open space. We believe there should be a competition which we would be happy to take part in judging. We want to see the maximum amount of open space on the site." Architects and landscape consultants have responded enthusiastically to the idea for a competition, first floated in *Building Design* by Roger Mote, Tory MP for Faversham.

Mote says: "I was encouraged by the response. They have proposed constructive ideas for open space, but with public services such as car parking." One even more grandiose plan is to move the British Pavilion, constructed for Expo 92 in Seville, onto the site or to create a "Millennium 2000" park to usher in the new century.

DIARY

• The letters page of The Times was essential reading yesterday at the breakfast table of Douglas Hurd. The missive from Dr Radivoj Karadzic, leader of the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, ordering a ceasefire, was even mentioned in the Commons. "I congratulate The Times on resuming its ancient role of receiving letters of this kind from all over the world," the foreign secretary told MPs. So which other correspondence columns of The Times? Alas, the Foreign Office did not know. "We can't quite think what he meant," admitted a spokesman.

Mick taken

STAR TURN during the service which opened the Methodist Conference in Newcastle yesterday was Father Mick McKenna, a Roman Catholic priest from Gateshead with a local reputation as a wit and raconteur. After a worthy Methodist sermon, McKenna was asked to make his contribution. He proceeded to tell the 600 Methodist delegates a stream of jokes in questionable taste.

"Why does the Virgin Mary look so miserable in pictures?" he asked them. "Because she always wanted a girl." Most of the congregation

laughed politely, if embarrassed. By the time the father was telling them that the Irish bishops had been forced to cancel their conference due to a lack of babysitters, ecclesiastical harmony was gone.

Still stuck on the line

BRITISH RAIL can expect no sympathy from Austin Mitchell over its huge losses. The Labour MP for Grimsby was this week due to ask John MacGregor, the secretary of state for transport, a parliamentary question about the "appalling" rail service linking London and his constituency. Mitchell left home early to catch a train from Doncaster, due to arrive at 2.15 pm, in plenty of time to ask his question. Needless to say, it didn't arrive until well after 3 pm. "BR must have got wind of my question," says Mitchell. "It was nothing less than sabotage."

We are grateful for the inconvenience caused by the late arrival.

Longleaf lives

SIGHS of relief could be heard from the custodians of Britain's heritage yesterday as Longleaf's declared business as usual following the death of the sixth Marquess of Longleaf. The eccentric seventh Marquess, the former Viscount Weymouth, is still making his way back from St Tropez, but his agent Tim Mootz says: "He feels that it is a time to consider the achievements of his late father. There are no major changes envisaged for Longleaf House."

The words are reassuring. The new Marquess, who has adored the staircase of his private apartments with portraits of women friends, is restricted by listed building legislation from making any major changes to one of the best-preserved Elizabethan houses in Britain, but fears persist about the contents. Might he want to replace the ancestral portraits with his own infamous murals? If he tries, the day could be saved by the Museums and Galleries Commission works of art in lieu of tax scheme. It would be delighted to hear from the Marquess. "An itemised bill at £10,000 using the scheme, whereas at auction it would be worth less than £60,000 after tax and selling costs," says the Commission's Heather Wilson. But the Commission does not indulge in ambulance chasing. "It would be up to him to contact us."

Joanna MacGregor, the pianist whose eclectic festival of contemporary music is under way at the ICA, has still not heard the work her husband, Richard Williams, is due to perform. Williams was asked to produce a piece for the festival's last night, on Sunday, and has decided to play the rarely performed 4'33" by John Cage which, as everyone knows, requires pianist and audience to sit in silence. "I did not want to disturb Joanna's practice," he says. Alasdair Nicholson, the festival's artistic director, will turn the composition's pages.



DUCKING AND WEAVING

British politics operate on the adversarial principle. If John Major hopes that come the autumn, there will be 60 or 70 Labour MPs marching into the government lobby in defence of the Maastricht treaty, he had better think again. It has never been any part of an Opposition's duty to pull a government's chestnuts out of the fire, least of all when there is an enticing prospect of a serious backbench revolt against a government with the smallest Tory majority since Winston Churchill returned to office in 1951.

Labour has, after all, been here before. It was Harold Wilson who announced in government that he would not "take no for an answer" to Britain's application to join the Community — and then opposed in the Commons, line by line, the terms that Edward Heath's government eventually secured. The prize then as now promised to be the embarrassment, perhaps even the defeat, of a Conservative government. But largely, thanks to Labour's own dissidents, the prize escaped. Instead, the only reward the party collected was widespread cynicism at the flexibility of its performance.

Since John Smith was one of the 69 Labour MPs who defied a three-line whip to vote in favour of the principle of British entry on October 28, 1971, that particular piece of history is unlikely to be repeated. If the man destined to become Labour's new leader in just over a fortnight's time can claim one continuing thread in his political career, it lies in his consistent support for the European cause. But once the Maastricht bill returns to the floor of the House in the autumn that may only sharpen his dilemma.

Mr Smith knows as well as anyone (and, on the record of his robust displays at the dispatch box, better than most) that the first duty of an Opposition is to oppose. Nor in his first months in the leadership will he want to make things in any way easy for the government. The one issue on which he cannot afford to seem soft is Europe, not least

because there will remain a danger of a rump of Labour anti-Maastricht mucketeers gathering around his leadership rival, and possibly future deputy, Bryan Gould.

The most probable parliamentary outcome is that the Opposition will zealously protect its right to examine the proposed Maastricht treaty clause by clause. The government will look in vain to Labour (or even to the most ardent Europeans on the Labour back benches) for assistance in bringing in a guillotine motion on the bill's committee stage. But to what end will all this Labour endeavour be directed?

So far Mr Smith and his colleagues have justified their opposition to the Maastricht treaties by deplored the absence of the social chapter from the proposals the government wishes to lay before the House. This can take their opposition just so far, for it involves joining forces with those on the Tory backbenches to whom the social chapter is anathema. The eventual question they must expect to be asked is whether Labour prefers Maastricht without a social chapter to having no Maastricht at all. The answer, both under Neil Kinnock and under Mr Smith, is almost certainly yes.

The outcome of this conundrum can only be official evasion. By responding selectively to crucial clauses of the bill, Labour might keep the government on tenterhooks with its internal opponents, in the hope that they will bring it to grief without Labour having to declare its hand too openly. But between 1971 and 1973 these tactics led to the breaking of ranks by pro-European Labour MPs and so undid Harold Wilson's none-too-scrupulous bid to use Europe to unseat the Heath government.

Labour is still a corporatist party, much in sympathy with the expansionism of Jacques Delors' European Commission. It would be better for Mr Smith to come clean and support Maastricht. But he should allow those MPs who disagree with him a free vote.

AWASH WITH DIRTY ROUBLES

Yesterday the rouble became semi-convertible: a "dirty float". The rouble symbolised many of the evils of the old Soviet system. Like communism itself, it was a false and empty totem, useless for buying goods, storing wealth, comparing prices or any other normal economic function. It represented nothing more than the power of an arbitrary government to despoil the wealth of its citizens. Not for nothing did the people prefer the currency of the sworn enemy, the dollar.

The economic impact of yesterday's step will be limited. The rouble has not been made genuinely convertible, as the government had originally promised. The Russian central bank has merely streamlined a crazy system of parallel exchange rates that subsidised privileged importers and penalised exporters who declared their full foreign earnings instead of salting them away in Swiss bank accounts. Russian citizens are still severely restricted in their right to hold foreign currencies. Foreign investors will not be allowed to buy roubles until the market reaches an "acceptable" exchange rate. The announcement of a huge overshoot in the budget deficit coincided with yesterday's measures, suggesting that the rouble is most unlikely to find stability at anything the government considers an acceptable rate.

These drastic limits on convertibility will disappoint many Russians, as well as free-market purists abroad. But they should be welcomed. While full convertibility would be a powerful symbol of Russia's break with its communist past, the government's hope of stabilising the rouble against the dollar and making a fixed exchange rate the central pillar of economic policy is misguided. The West should look askance at the Russian request, likely to be repeated by Boris Yeltsin at the Munich G7 summit next week, for a \$6 billion fund to stabilise the rouble. There are other uses for such aid.

A stable, non-inflationary currency naturally helps the functioning of market forces, but it is neither necessary nor sufficient for

PLEA FOR BARGAINS

Pressure put on a defendant to plead guilty, especially if the pressure is from a judge, will almost always lead to a successful appeal. The Court of Appeal has made this clear often enough for it to be standard doctrine in every English criminal trial. This is the reason plea bargaining is not accepted practice in the English courts. In America, practice is wholly different. Such bargaining usually includes a formal offer from the judge of a reduced sentence, and sometimes a reduction in the seriousness of the charge, if the defendant pleads guilty.

English law is too fastidious about such oiling of the gears of justice. A form of plea bargaining already happens, though surreptitiously. In many a barrister's robing room before trial, defence counsel has hinted to prosecuting counsel that an adjustment in the charge downwards, say from grievous bodily harm to actual bodily harm, might result in a change of plea, to the benefit of swift justice. This cannot be admitted; and as a result the justice is rougher and not as transparent as it ought to be.

Plea bargaining should be legitimised. With suitable safeguards it would increase, rather than reduce, the accuracy of the criminal justice system and make it cheaper and more efficient. The strongest argument for plea bargaining comes from regular practitioners in the criminal courts. They say that what professional criminals most want to know, before a trial, is what punishment is likely. Dreading the uncertainty of sentencing and the risk of exceptional severity, the defendant often pleads not guilty on the off-chance of an acquittal. It is not a strictly rational choice, but nor is a life of crime

lawyers who have noticed this characteristic of the criminal mind say that plea bargaining, with a guaranteed discount on any likely sentence, is bound to raise the frequency of guilty pleas significantly.

For such reasons a committee of the Bar Council proposed a system of open plea bargaining last month. This week the Lord Chancellor's department, worried by the rising cost of legal aid, indicated it too is tempted. But saving money should not be the only consideration. Nor is the Bar Council right that the appeal court need only issue new guidelines, the opposite of the old ones. Law reforms involving a complete reversal of previous policy and practice should not be left to judges but debated by Parliament and enacted by statute.

Parliament, in turn, would be wise to wait for the advice of the royal commission on criminal justice, especially concerning uncorroborated confession evidence. In some notorious cases, convictions which were later quashed on appeal have resulted from juries accepting uncorroborated confessions recorded by the police, who have used unwarranted pressure. The chance of a lesser sentence in exchange for a guilty plea could readily be turned by the police into the offer of a lesser sentence if a suspect confesses.

The *quid pro quo* for allowing plea bargaining before a trial should be to change the law to require confessions to be corroborated by other evidence, as is already the law in Scotland. A trade-off along such lines from the royal commission would make sense. For the legal aid economies that will follow, the Lord Chancellor's department will have to be patient.

Why UK needs the Eurofighter

From Sir Peter Masefield

Sir, the lamentable conclusion of your leader, "Eurofighter grounded" (July 1), smacks of the same attitude that decied the development of the Hurricane and the Spitfire 57 years ago.

Although the international situation is so different today, there are now even more potential — though unknown — threats to our future security.

In dismissing the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) you apparently contemplate:

1. Abandoning the carefully assessed requirements for an allied means of achieving and maintaining air superiority in any future conflict. The Gulf war showed once again how essential that is to the saving of massive land casualties.

2. Throwing out of work more than 40,000 skilled designers, engineers and technicians in this country — and many others in Italy and Spain as well.

3. Inevitably relegating Britain to a minor position towards future military and civil aircraft and aeroplanes — of so much added-value to our economy and technical know-how.

4. Ditching valuable potential exports.

5. Destroying much of our future ability to compete in many related world markets.

6. Forcing us to spend scarce foreign currency on less effective American aircraft, while throwing away most of the current substantial investment in the EFA.

None of this overstates the wide and disastrous effect which would come from the loss of such an advanced project, so relevant to the future of our country in the realms of industry, technology, employment and defence.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MASEFIELD
(Past President,
Royal Aeronautical Society),
Rosehill, Doods Way,
Reigate, Surrey.
July 1.

Attitudes on Europe

From Sir David Crouch

Sir, Margaret Thatcher is entitled to her views on Europe (report, June 29) but it is important to remember that it was because of those views that she is no longer prime minister. John Major is committed to Britain playing a leading role in Europe, as are Michael Heseltine and Douglas Hurd, the other contenders for leadership of the Tory party.

Conservative MPs made their decision on Europe when they chose John Major and it must be hoped that their loyalty to him will not be weakened by calls from their former leader to do otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CROUCH,
The Oast House, Fisher Street,
Badesmere, Faversham, Kent.

From Mr J. C. Stott

Sir, The prime minister tells us (report, June 30) that referendums are a "device of demagogues and dictators". In which category does he place his Danish, Irish, and French colleagues?

Yours faithfully,
J. C. STOTT,
3 Kennedy Gardens,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

From Mr J. A. Newell

Sir, In *The Birmingham Post* it is reported (June 29) that

The Environment Secretary, Mr Michael Howard, is to be asked to rule whether Oulton College, Sumon Coldfield, will be allowed to build a wall to shield passers-by from an unsightly view of a dustbin.

Should not subsidiarity begin at home?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN NEWELL,
139 Salisbury Road,
Moseley, Birmingham 13.

Privatised secretaries

From Mr David Blunkett, MP for Sheffield Brightside (Labour)

Sir, I understand that a decision may have been taken to place an outside contractor the employment of personal secretaries at the Inland Revenue offices in Nottingham and the Department of Health in Leeds. This would be a retrograde step, placing as it does political dogma before good management practices.

Anyone with experience of holding a senior post knows the pivotal role that a personal secretary plays in ensuring the efficiency and smooth running of senior management. We ask tasks to be mainly carried out by men, the grading and status of such posts would be considerably higher.

Given the integral nature of such posts with the activity being undertaken by the directly employed staff — including confidentiality and personal commitment — it is bizarre in the extreme to think of these key positions being filled from outside agencies.

Undertaking commitment to work, and the sense of belonging to an organisation which values the personal contribution made by the employee, is a short-sighted road to nowhere.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BLUNKETT,
House of Commons.
June 24.

Business letters, page 23

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Treatment of brutal young offenders

From the Director of Fairbridge

Sir, Valerie Grove paints a chilling and depressing picture ("Nasty, brutish and young", Life & Times, June 26) of the mind of "the young man bereft of human feeling", who commits violent, brutal and motiveless attacks, usually on female victims.

It is equally chilling and depressing to those of us who work daily with such young people to see above the article the question: "Is it time society stopped finding excuses for the perpetrators of violent and pointless crime and started hating them instead?"

It is, of course, right to remove violent young men from society, to protect us and to punish them — and to give them the opportunity to repent and reform.

Long periods in prison might satisfy our basic desire for revenge — and hatred and revenge stalk dangerously hand in hand — but they do little to reform.

There are highly effective alternatives to youth custody. This organisation has been working in this field for the past ten years. It is remarkably successful at helping young people to change the direction of their lives.

The key to its success is its understanding of the problems facing young people in the underclass and its ability to meet their needs, the principal ones of which are the deep need for self-esteem and for support.

This is a process that takes time and great patience. It is significant that some 30 per cent of our staff were once themselves young offenders. They are the proof that, given opportunity and support, young men are able to make the radical change from the violent, brutal and mindless underclass to mature, compassionate service to society.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JAMES, Director,
Fairbridge,
202 Lambeth Road, SE1.
June 29.

From Mrs Jenny Truch

Sir, Valerie Grove advocates that we "strain . . . our quality of mercy" for those who perpetrate violent and pointless crimes. These people, she says, have, as children suffered "grievous psychic trauma, some physical or psychological abuse".

It is true that we need to take measures to protect ourselves from these sociopaths, and this may mean removing them from society if we can find no way of redeeming their emotional constitution. The danger is, however, that by focusing on despising them we take our attention away from the measures needed to protect future generations of children from the trauma which may cause them to become sociopaths.

Yours sincerely,
JENNY TRUCH,
Jordans, Copthall Hall Road,
Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent.
June 28.

From Dr T. E. Warner

Sir, Sending such pathetic specimens as Valerie Grove describes to prison for years is clearly not the answer. What good will it do? Putting down savage Rottweilers makes sense. Putting away young men who committed their crimes under the influence of drugs (report, June 24) with no guarantee that the experience will not further degrade them is a sheer waste of time and money.

Yours etc.
T. E. WARNER,
West End, Peacock Road,
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.
June 26.

From Mrs Susa Ellis

Sir, Valerie Grove's article, appearing after your report of the Lords debate on bringing up children (June 25), points up the sorry confusion facing parents today. Parents need the support of society, including politicians and commentators, to bring up their children to understand the values that make for a civilised society.

In the microcosm of the nursery children need to learn that if they transgress there will be unpleasant results, but that love and continued care are not withdrawn. Privileges (toys, treats) may be taken away, status lost, fines imposed on pocket money, liberty restricted. These stages fairly foreshadow the legal

rank.

I feel I should make this clear in the light of Bryan Appleyard's piece (July 1), "David Mellor's white elephant". Please treat this letter as a complete denial of ownership of any plans for this beast.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MELLOR,
Department of National Heritage,
Horse Guards Road, SW1.

From Dr P. N. Skelton-Stroud

Sir, Manufacturers of motor cars continue to fit them with cigar lighters and ashtrays. I applaud the introduction of catalytic converters to clean up exhaust emissions and the external environment and suggest that to leave out the accoutrements of smoking as standard fittings would go some way toward cleaning up the internal environment.

Many motorists might prefer instead one of the range of accessories for which they currently pay extra.

Yours faithfully,
P. N. SKELTON-STROUD,
Sherrifford Farm,
Pont Shrigley,
Macclesfield, Cheshire.
June 30.

From Mr Alexander Redman

Sir, Wing collars were part of our school uniform at King's School, Canterbury, so on my last day there it seemed appropriate for my friends to sign that it is an excellent conversation-piece.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER REDMAN,
Durham Union Society,
Palace Green, Durham.

From Mrs R. D. West

Sir, Miss Dewar might consider using (the back of) her last school report.

Very truly yours,
CATHERINE WEST,
Broomleaf, Harwood Road,
Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire.

From Mrs Stanley Alexander

Sir, Whatever happened to the autograph book?

Yours sincerely,
MINDA ALEXANDER,
19 Templemead, Weybridge, Surrey.

A Solomon needed

From Mr and Mrs D. Howard-Allen

Sir, It would greatly improve the quality of our marriage if the Business and Sports reports could be printed in separate sections during Wimbledon fortnight.

Yours faithfully,

BRIDGET HOWARD-ALLEN,
DAVID HOWARD-ALLEN,
Hedges, South Stoke Road,
Woodcote, Reading, Berkshire.
June 30.

LSE, County Hall and 'realpolitik'

From Mr Alex Carlile, QC, MP for Montgomery (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, I believe that the Shirayama Corporation remains interested in the



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 1: His Excellency Dr Gazi Alqosai was received in audience by The Prince of Wales and The Princess Royal, Counsellors of State, acting on behalf of The Queen, and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Ibrahim Mohammed Mosly (Deputy Head of Mission), Mr Saudi Ahmed Alayha (Minister Plenipotentiary), Mr Abdulla O. Barry (Minister Plenipotentiary), Colonel Abdulmohsen Hamad Al-Bassam (Defence Attaché), Mr Abdulla Mohammed Al-Nasser (Consul General), Dr Hussain K. Khogah (Medical Attaché), Mr Mohamed Al-Sheddi (Commercial Attaché).

Mrs Alqosai was also received by Their Royal Highnesses.

Sir David Gilliom (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present, and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr Michael Tait was received in audience by The Prince of Wales and The Princess Royal, Counsellors of State, acting on behalf of The Queen, and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Tunis.

Mrs Louise Croft was received in audience by The Prince of Wales and The Princess Royal, Counsellors of State, acting on behalf of The Queen, and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at San Jose.

By command of The Queen, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Glasgow (Mr Robert Innes, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost) was present at Glasgow Airport this afternoon upon the arrival of the President of the Republic of Ireland and Mr Robinson and welcomed Her Excellency and Mr Robinson on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 1: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, this morning attended a parade to mark the formation of the Royal Irish Regiment in Warminster, Wiltshire.

Captain Rupert Maitland-Taylor was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, Patron of the 1992 United States Army Air

Forces Reunion, this evening attended a reception given by the British American Forces Dining Club at St James's Palace.

Captain Neil Blair, RN, was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
July 1: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning visited the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley.

Her Majesty subsequently honoured the Chairman of the Garden Society (Sir Giles Loder) with her presence at the Society's 70th Anniversary Luncheon.

Dame Frances Campbell-Preston and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 1: The Prince of Wales this morning received the Rt Hon John Major, MP, (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales Patron, ASPIRE Association for Spinal Injury Research, Rehabilitation and Reintegration visited the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Trust at Brockley Hill, Stanmore, Middlesex.

Captain Edward Musto, RM, was in attendance.

Today is the anniversary of the birthday of The Princess of Wales.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 1: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today attended a luncheon at the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, given to mark the Seventieth Anniversary of the Garden Society.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 1: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Papworth and Enham Foundation for Handicapped People, today attended the Papworth Trust 75th Anniversary Conference at Papworth Hall, Papworth Everard, Cambridgeshire and was received on arrival by Captain Nigel Chancellor (Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire).

Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 1: The Duchess of Kent this afternoon attended the Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, London SW19.

Mrs Peter Troughton was in attendance.

The Duke of Kent, Vice Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, this evening arrived at Royal Air Force Northolt from Genoa, Italy.

Commander Roger Walker, RN, was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Senior Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, and the Duke of Kent, royal fellow, will attend a dinner at Guildhall at 7.15 to mark the change in title to the Royal Academy of Engineering. The Duke of York will present the prizes at a winners' day at Wentworth Golf Club, Surrey, at 6.30 in aid of the Paul O'Gorman Foundation for Children with Leukaemia.

The Princess Royal, as President of Patrons of Crime Concern, will preside at the launch of Youth Crime Prevention Panels — New Initiative, on HMS President, Blackfriars, at 11.00; and as President of the Princess Royal Trust for Care, will visit the trust's headquarters at 16 Byward

Street at 12.35: As Honorary President of the Chartered Institute of Transport, she will open the new extension to the Freight Transport Association Training Centre, Wadhurst, at 3.15; and, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will attend a fundraising dinner at the Royal Lancaster Hotel at 7.00 given by the Paint Industries Club.

Princess Margaret will open the Church Army Wilson Carle College of Evangelism in Sheffield at 2.15; and will visit the premises of Hiriam Scissor Manufacturers in Sheffield at 3.30.

The Duke of Kent, President of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, and the Duchess of Kent will attend Wimbledon at 1.15.

Birthdays today

Lord Beloff, 79; Mr Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP, 52; Lady Crawshaw, chairman, Local Government Boundary Commission, Wales, 65; Sir Hugh Cubitt, former chairman, The Housing Corporation, 64; Mr Dennis Flanders, artist, 77; Miss Jerry Hall, model, 36; Lord Horn of Hirsell, KT, 89; Lord Mackay of Clashfern, 65; Mr Dennis Marks, general director-designate, English National Opera, 70.

44: Mr Ferdinand Mount, journalist, 53; Lord Owen, 54; Sir Kadi, former keeper, Ashmolean Museum, 97; Lord Sibert of Brighton, 79; Mrs Ann Taylor, MP, 45; Mr John Timson, broadcaster, 64; Canon F.C. Tindall, principal emeritus, Salisbury Theological College, 92; the Duke of Wellington, KG, 77; Sir Alan Wilson, former chairman, Glaxo Group, 86.

Church news

Clergy appointments

The Rev Raymond Jones, non-superintendent Minister (Covenanted to be Team Vicar, Probus Team Ministry (Turo), 77.



Royal subject: Jack Harman, left, creator of a new sculpture of the Queen in Ottawa meets the monarch and Brian Mulroney, Canadian prime minister

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jacques Sansvino, sculptor, Florence, 1486; Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, 1533-56, Aslockton, Notts, 1489; Christoph von Gluck, composer, Weidenberg, Germany, 1716; Sir William Henry Bragg, physicist, Nobel laureate, 1915; Hermann Hesse, poet and novelist, Nobel laureate, 1946; Calw, Germany, 1877.

DEATHS: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, philosopher, Ermenonville, France, 1778; Samuel Hahnemann, originator of homeopathy, Paris, 1833; Sir Robert Peel, prime minister 1834-5, 1841-6, London, 1850; Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, actor-manager, London, 1917; Amelia Earhart, aviator, lost over the Pacific Ocean, 1937; Ernest Hemingway, writer, Nobel laureate 1954, committed suicide, Ketchum, Idaho, 1961; Walter Hammond, Gloucs, and England cricketer, Durban, 1915; Betty Grable, film actress, Santa Monica, California, 1973; Vladimir Nabokov, novelist, Montreux, 1977.

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Queen makes plea for Canadian unity

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

THE Queen waded into Canada's dispute over national unity yesterday with a message to Canadian political leaders to put the national interest first in their efforts to forge a new constitutional settlement.

Addressing a vast crowd on Parliament Hill gathered to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Canadian confederation, the Queen said that the country's reputation for tolerance and common sense was being put to the test.

She urged Canadian leaders to spare no effort in their pursuit of a constitutional compromise accommodating the distinctive character of Quebec province within Canada, the historic rights of aboriginal people, and institutional reform.

These are all emotion-charged and highly-provocative issues in last-ditch attempts now under way to work out a comprehensive plan of constitutional renewal.

In an apparent reference to the incessant squabbling among provincial, federal and aboriginal politicians that has marked the negotiations process, the Queen stressed that "the real constitution is not cast immutably on the printed page, but lives in the hearts of the people".

She went on to urge Canadian leaders to "think first and foremost of the national interest — Canada's interest".

THE process has bogged down over such things as Quebec's demand for recognition as a distinct society within Canada, and a veto over future constitutional change and the demands of Canada's native Indians for self-government. Some provinces want reform of the Senate, the Upper House of country's parliament.

French-speaking Quebec has boycotted the discussions and is to hold a referendum on sovereignty on October 26.

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OBITUARIES

MARIE PODVALOVA

Marie Podvalova, Czech soprano and principal of the opera of the National Theatre in Prague, died on May 16 aged 82. She was born in Bohemia on September 5, 1909.

THE drop of the iron curtain after the communist takeover of Czechoslovakia meant that Marie Podvalova was scarcely heard outside her native land and had no chance of making a career in the West. It was her misfortune to have been born at the wrong time: her best years were in the 1940s.

But she had the satisfaction of knowing that during the Nazi occupation the Czech public identified her with the title role in Smetana's great patriotic opera *Libuse*. Her singing of the prophetic finale gave hope to everybody. Her voice and personality influenced the interpretation of main roles in Czech opera for dramatic soprano, such as *Milada* (in Smetana's *Dalibor*), *Janacek's Sarka* and the *Kostelnicka* in the same composer's *Jenafa*. But

she sang also Leonore, both Aida and Amneris and Tosca. Marie Podvalova studied with Anna Fassati and attended the Conservatory in Prague, where Doubrovka Brancbergova was her main teacher. It was the conductor Václav Talich who first recognised her extremely powerful voice and who recommended her to star her operatic career and gain experience in Brno. At 28 Podvalova returned to Prague ready to take on such leading roles as Santuzza, Amella and Senza. Her slender frame and expressively beautiful face won her thousands of admirers.

Her first records, made shortly after the war, give some indication of the dramatic passion she was able to inject into her portrayals. Later, alas, the voice became unsteady and she was possibly ill-advised to give some of her later performances in the 1960s and 1970s. But her audience remained despite the decline in voice quality and homage was still paid to the name of Podvalova throughout Czechoslovakia. But

MARION POTTLE

Marion Pottle, who collaborated with her husband Frederick A. Pottle, the American Boswell scholar, in many of his writings and editorial work on Boswell, has died in Ithaca, New York, aged 94. She was born in Oxford, Maine, on October 23, 1897.

FOR years international scholars of the eighteenth century in Britain depended upon Mrs Pottle for her knowledge (and total recall) of the contents of the Boswell Papers. Her husband, himself known by colleagues as "Boswell's Boswell" from his voluminous knowledge of his subject, frequently held that "only Marion" had read "every word of the manuscripts": indeed, she seemed capable of recalling any portion of them at will.

She wrote the catalogue of the collection, a task continually being finished only to be foreshadowed by the arrival of a fresh batch of newly acquired or newly discovered manuscripts.

Marion Isabel Starbird was educated at Colby College, Maine, Simmons College, Boston, where she took her MA in 1919, and at Yale

compositions in the style of John Cage. He moved first to minimalist then conceptual art, his music sometimes backing television commercials.

He moved from New York to Paris in 1972 and took French citizenship in 1984. He wrote a number of musical scores for films based on the novels of Marguerite Duras such as *India Song* (1975) and *Enfants* (1985).

Karl-Erik Welin

Karl-Erik Welin, Swedish-born composer and organist, has died at his home in Majorca aged 58. He was known for writing and performing avant-garde organ and piano music. Several European

composers wrote music especially for him, including György Ligeti of Austria and Sylvano Bussotti of Italy.

Welin studied at the music conservatories in Berlin and Stockholm. His works include *Renovations*, *Manzi*, *Warum Nicht?*, *Pereo* and *A New Map of Hell*.

Latest wills

The Right Hon Frederick Anthony Hamilton Wills, 2nd Baron Daverton of Batsford, a former director of Imperial Tobacco, president of the Timber Growers Association and of the British Deer Society, a trustee of the World Wildlife Fund and president of the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation, left estate valued at £6,015,147 net. He left his estate mostly to his widow and children.

Mrs Mabel Jane Donning, of Noctorum, Merseyside, widow of Stratford Donning, left estate valued at £674,724 net. She left her entire estate to the Little Sisters of the Poor, Liverpool.

Ethel Cottell Webber, of Preston, Painswick, left estate valued at £420,460 net. She left £100,000 to the Preston Baptist church towards the cost of her will, responsibility for much, £1,000 each to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, and the Retired Baptist Ministers Association, and £200 to the Bible Society.

Mr Henry Stephen Hoyles, of Wellington, Somerset, retired pharmaceutical chemist, left estate valued at £1,836,614 net:

John Robinson, of Guildford, Surrey, left estate valued at £475,049 net. She left a personal legacy of £3,000 and the residue equally between the National Trust and Dr Barnado's.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Mr Desmond Baring, of Wantage, Oxfordshire, £567,735.

Kathleen Mildred Baylis, of Leicester, £726,100.

CHRISTIAN FERBER

Christian Ferber, German author, essayist and journalist on the Bonn national daily, *Die Welt*, died on June 26 in hospital at Midhurst, Sussex, aged 72. He was born in Eberswalde, a small town north-east of Berlin, on October 31, 1919.

CHRISTIAN Ferber chose his pseudonym in preference to his true name, Georg Seidel, in order to free himself from the burden of being the son of one of Germany's most celebrated writers, Ina Seidel, whose own books sold in hundreds of thousands in the German-speaking world. Most notably, her *Das Wunschkind* sold well over a million copies, though she has never been made available to the English reader.

With his death, a distinguished literary dynasty that endured for nearly two centuries comes to an end. Christian Ferber's father Heinrich, also an established writer, doubled as pastor of a small Lutheran congregation in a working-class area of Berlin. In his youth Ferber attended the famous Salem school which had been founded at Schondorf by Kurt Hahn. There, a young contemporary was the future Duke of Edinburgh. During the Hitler period Hahn, as a Jew, transferred his school to Gordonstoun in Scotland. Ferber had already left.

The boy had every prospect open to him but chose not to proceed with academic study but his mother as active in the literary world as always. Ferber himself was, with Heinrich Böll among the founders of *Gruppe 47*, a band of young writers in rebellious mood. They felt passionately on the subject of Nazi-inspired literature. They brought an angry, iconoclastic wind to German letters in exiation of their elders' crime of apathy towards Nazi barbarism. This was an immensely creative period and Ferber soon developed as a



capital. He was subsequently captured in Holland and saw out the hostilities as a prisoner-of-war on a Yorkshire farm.

Reparated only in 1947, Ferber returned to a Berlin still in ruins, his father dead but his mother as active in the literary world as always. Ferber himself was, with Heinrich Böll among the founders of *Gruppe 47*, a band of young writers in rebellious mood. They felt passionately on the subject of Nazi-inspired literature. They brought an angry, iconoclastic wind to German letters in exiation of their elders' crime of apathy towards Nazi barbarism. This was an immensely creative period and Ferber soon developed as a

popular broadcaster at a time when radio became a constant source of solace to a nation divided, demoralised and hungry.

He made his reputation within the extensive Springer organisation as writer in the Continental *feuilletoniste* tradition on any subject, except politics, that took his fancy. In the course of his career Ferber was twice awarded the Theodor Wolff Prize, the highest distinction in German journalism. Additionally, he wrote light fiction under other pseudonyms and was an active member of the German PEN.

Late in 1968 he was posted to London by *Die Welt* to cover the arts scene throughout Western Europe, in the

course of which Ferber annually turned in satirical copy on the grotesqueries of the Cannes film festival.

In early 1951 he had married Ursula Liederwald, herself well-known as a dramatic actress of the reborn German theatre. Together they cultivated an affectionate curiosity about all things English. Our peculiar mores provided Ferber with inexhaustible material. He could produce a sparkling thousand words on any subject equally from the burgeoning rash of Chinese takeaways to the protocol of the *Das Wunschkind* sold well over a million copies, though she has never been made available to the English reader.

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APPRECIATIONS

John Loutit

TO GIVE a complete record of John Loutit's contribution to radiobiology one other activity should be added to those mentioned in your excellent obituary of June 19.

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Labour says job total has dropped to 1979 levels

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

LABOUR claimed yesterday that the number of people in work in Britain has fallen to below the level of 1979. At the same time John Major was making plans for a special cabinet meeting to tackle the country's growing economic difficulties.

Against a background of increasing ministerial scepticism about the government's ability to cut spending, the prime minister has summoned his colleagues to review what is likely to be the toughest public expenditure round for years.

Seeking to tarnish the government's reputation for cre-

ating jobs, Henry McLeish, a Labour employment spokesman, said latest figures showed that the number of jobs in the economy fell by 191,000 from December 1979 to December 1991. Ministers have consistently deflected Labour taunts about rising unemployment by pointing to growth in the number of people in work. That defence has now been called into question.

In discussing spending targets, ministers are understood to be asking for an additional £14 billion above projected levels despite what informed sources say has been a "mood of realism". The annual public spending cabinet is now to be held in late July after MPs have left Westminster for the long summer recess. Senior government sources say it will give Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary, full backing to be as tough as possible.

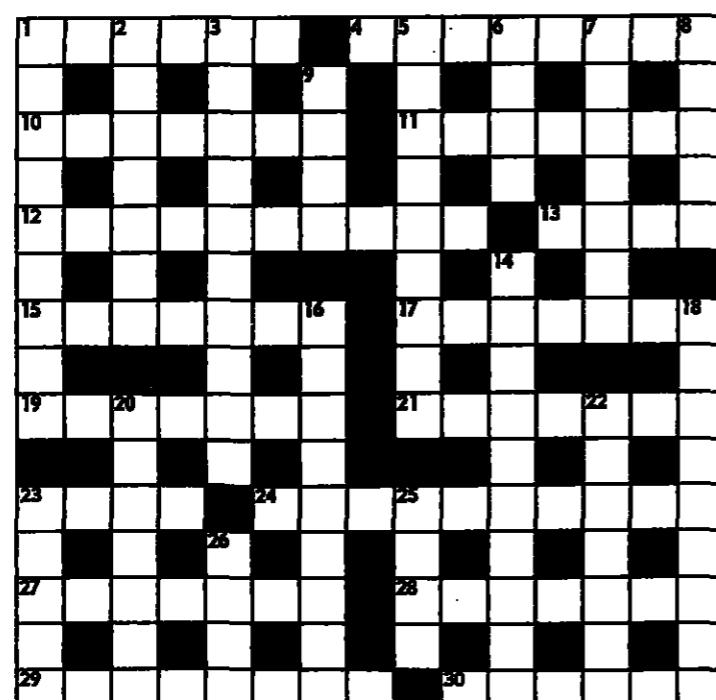
The main reasons for this are the need to control the high public-sector deficit of £28 billion this year and £32 billion next, falling Exchequer revenue and, most important, the need to demonstrate in the first year of a parliament the government's resolve to maintain tight control of spending.

In their bids to the Treasury, ministers are said to have shown more restraint than usual. In the past many have tended to overbid, fully expecting to be cut back. They are said to have responded to Mr Portillo's appeal, in a series of private meetings, for them to keep overbids to a minimum.

This, according to senior cabinet sources, makes it even more difficult to understand where the reductions can be made to send the right signals to the financial markets. The government's difficulties are emphasised by the murmurs of dissent on its back benches. Some Tory MPs are calling for monetary relaxation through cutting interest rates; others favour the Keynesian solution of fiscal relief and are asking if the Treasury is right to be insisting on such a tight spending round.

Charter plan, page 11
Diary, page 14
Leading article and letters, page 15

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,960



ACROSS

- Cut strip out of cape as sample (6).
- Consolation by word of mouth from the castle (6).
- At home, being frightfully cold (7).
- Round the mountain girl retracts aerial (7).
- Detective magazine (7,3).
- Horse and trap turned over not far away (4).
- Jaundiced boy with a tic, perhaps (7).
- Dish in sink is in the way (7).
- Apes a cobbler put back on the Rock (7).
- The best seaside boarder to emerge? (7).
- Telephoned and spoke (4).
- Italian ice-cream vendor? (10).
- He told the story of his lame paranoiac (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,959

CHOPSTICKS CARD
A N W N A D I
P U T R E S E N T F E L L
O H E I S P L E
B E N T D H A M A N I S T
E G W I S M N T
D U Q U O T I N C I C A D A
U L G M L N
I M P A L E G A L L I P O T
T H I K G E L E
A D O R A T I O N V E A L
T E M M E E U W
I N N S F O O T B R I D G E
O I N N I T I A
N E X T C O L C H E S T E R

28 It's clear that one in the middle of a trunk call has not finished (9).
29 Honour new saint by showing respect (8).
30 One of the metal woods, presumably (6).
DOWN

- Surrealist leader on the booze is producing dotty pictures (9).
- He doesn't believe that he is taking part (7).
- Fellow countryman pulled out of the Potomac river — it's turbulent (10).
- A foolish sheep upset the shepherdess (9).
- Might sound a very small amount (4).
- Operated on the sovereign by order (7).
- Reluctant student has promise (5).
- One may be capped, being madly keen (4).
- His business is looking up — he deals in futures (10).
- The chateau is able to admit Esther Johnson (9).
- Building let nearly always (9).
- Female howler has been getting unruly (7).
- Tall stories about university's Latin scholar (7).
- Money — a factor in love! (5).
- Pepper the skin (4).
- Vessels break up (4).

ANSWER: Top saw
IBM
Today's pollen count forecast is HIGH SELDANE. A major advance in hayfever treatment.



Reflecting on the future: Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey, General Officer Commanding the army in northern Ireland, inspecting the first 33 recruits to the Royal Irish Regiment which came into being yesterday. The new regiment marks the passing of the Ulster Defence Regiment, the army's most controversial unit, which combines with the Royal Irish Rangers.

The Duke of York is to be Colonel-in-Chief of the 7,600-strong regiment, which has been described by Sir John, chief architect of the merger, as good for Northern Ireland and good for the army.

Right now we are not prepared to use those forces but their deployment was designed to send "a signal to the

people over there that we're serious", Mr Bush said. The president hoped Sarajevo airport could be reopened without resorting to the use of force. But the administration believes that because of the airport's single runway, relief supplies would still have to be transported overland to the Bosnian capital. The US has promised to supply combat air cover for the relief convoys.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian-Serb leader, mean-

while said his forces would fight the American fleet if it interfered in the conflict with Bosnian Muslims, who are fighting for independence for the mainly Muslim country.

If they come to Serbian territory or Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to disarm Serbian people or to attack Serbian people we would have no choice but to fight, he told Israel Radio in a telephone interview yesterday.

Snipers braved, page II

Food flight for Sarajevo begins

Continued from page 1
said that he had sent six naval vessels and 2,200 marines to the Adriatic as a warning to the Serbian aggressors.

"I am appalled at the human suffering and the killing in Sarajevo, and we will do what we are called upon to do, to utilise whatever we have to see that peace comes to that area," he said.

"Right now we are not prepared to use those forces but their deployment was designed to send "a signal to the

people over there that we're serious", Mr Bush said. The president hoped Sarajevo airport could be reopened without resorting to the use of force. But the administration believes that because of the airport's single runway, relief supplies would still have to be transported overland to the Bosnian capital.

The US has promised to supply combat air cover for the relief convoys.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian-Serb leader, mean-

Thousands stranded by French protests

Continued from page 1
blockaded: M Bianco said: "They have no right to block families, travellers, holiday-makers and children simply because they have a demand to express. Those who are against the points licence system should go and see the result of lives destroyed by road accidents. The points system is a fight for life."

He has rejected an opposition call to put off introducing the new system, which came into force yesterday, and open talks with the lorry drivers. The drivers, who have paraded their juggernauts at strategic points in every region to back their demand for extra points, say the confrontation will continue.

Phil Walters, managing director of the company whose coach has been stranded since Monday, said conditions on the vehicle were deteriorating. "These people, from South Wales, Bristol and Manchester, have paid for a holiday in Spain. They don't expect to be stuck on a motorway by French anarchists."

Lyndon Richards, the coach driver said: "It's absolutely hell. Many of the passengers are in tears because of the heat. The children have had enough. Some have withdrawn into their shells and others just sit there weeping. Some of the passengers are so furious they wanted to hijack the coach and take it down a dirt track."

Bur Mr Richards, who has been walking five miles to shops to get food and water, added: "There is a lot of cameraderie. British lorry drivers are using their primus stoves to cook meals for everyone. Everybody is sticking together. There are a lot of tears but we are all looking after each other."

Political sketch Toupees tipped to barefaced Teresa

Halfway through questions to the foreign secretary yesterday, just as Mr Hurd tipped gingerly through a minefield of a question about Maastricht, Teresa Gorman appeared at the door, and hovered. It was her first public appearance since admitting on Radio 1 that her eyebrows were tattooed.

Hearts went out to Mrs Gorman. It was a brave admission. One thinks of all the male MPs who wear toupees, not one of whom has come out as a baldy. Peter Mandelson (Lab, Hartlepool) sports a Victorian stage villain's moustache which few believe to be genuine. Jerry Hayes (C, Harlow) is widely suspected of Afro-perming his famous blond beehive, and I know one secretary of state who was spotted queuing at Boots in Victoria Street for 'Grecian 2000'. He bought two bottles. Wild horses would not drag from me his name. And nameless shall remain the Tory whose photograph in *The Times Guide to the House of Commons* showed an almost completely bald MP. He refused to let an election with a full head of hair.

Women politicians, who are on the whole less vain than the men, are perhaps less coy about personal artifice. Barbara Castle recounts with 'candid' the story of how, when social services secretary, she rushed at dawn to the scene of an old people's home, puffed by fire with terrible loss of life. Such was the urgency of her mission that she had time only to tip out of bed and pull on clothes, shoes and a wig. Picking her way through the cinders, the end of a trailing cable hanging from a rafter caught her wig and held it, suspended in the air. She grabbed the wig and plucked it back on her head, sideways, unfortunately.

Lady Castle's diaries record her dilemma:

Should she get out her vanity mirror and arrange the wig, standing in the rubble? Or should she complete her tour and arrive at a press conference with wig askew? She took the right decision: the second one.

But Mrs Gorman's honesty is the greater, for nobody had threatened to "out" her over her eyebrows. She could have taken her secret to the grave, but volunteered it to *the Times*.

Now "I love John" is all the rage. Tattooists (who at Westminster are called *Hansard* reporters) are doing a roaring trade in getting that message down in indecent form, beneath a hundred names, no matter how tasteless the wording, how lurid the ink. Slow to learn, they should listen to Mrs Gorman.

For already, down in a surgery they call the Table Office, ordinaries are trying to unpick from the arms of a few hasty Tories a June tattoo called EDM 174, about Maastricht. Harley Booth (Finchley), Lady Olga Maitland (Sutton & Cheam), David Evans (Weymouth), and James Hill (Southampton) *Test* are nursing sore shoulders ... but to what avail? The chief whip has a long memory. As that great Victorian tattooist, Edward Fitzgerald, wrote ...

The moving needle pricks and, having pricked, moves on.

Now all thy pity nor wit shall save it back to cancel half a line.

Not all thy tears wash out a word of it.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Many southeastern counties will start cloudy with outbreaks of rain. By lunchtime these parts will become brighter but still with the chance of showers. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly dry with sunny intervals at first but cloud will thicken bringing rain by midnight. Remaining areas will have variable amounts of cloud and a little light rain at times. Outlook: changeable with more rain.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

C London (within N & S Circs) 731
M-ways/roads M1-M4 724
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M-ways/roads Dartford T-4/23 735
M-ways/roads M25-M4 736
National 737
National motorways 738
West Country 739
Wales 740
Midlands 741
East Anglia 742
Northeast England 743
North-east England 744
Scotland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

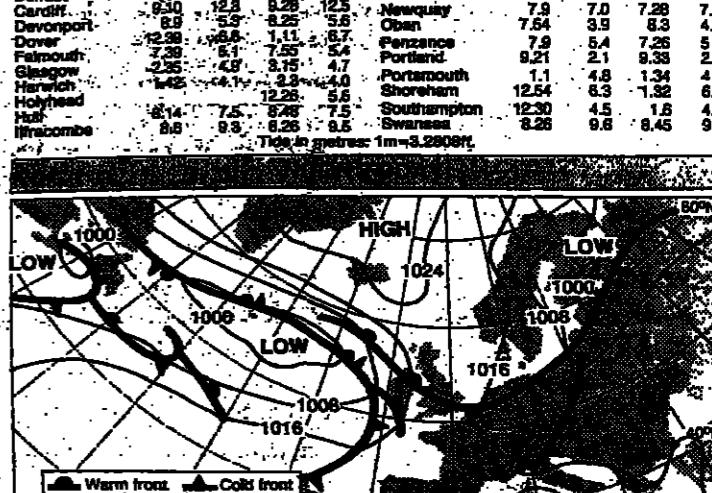
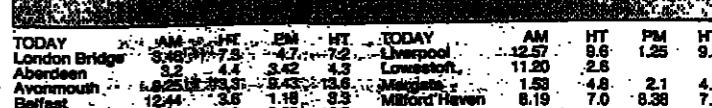
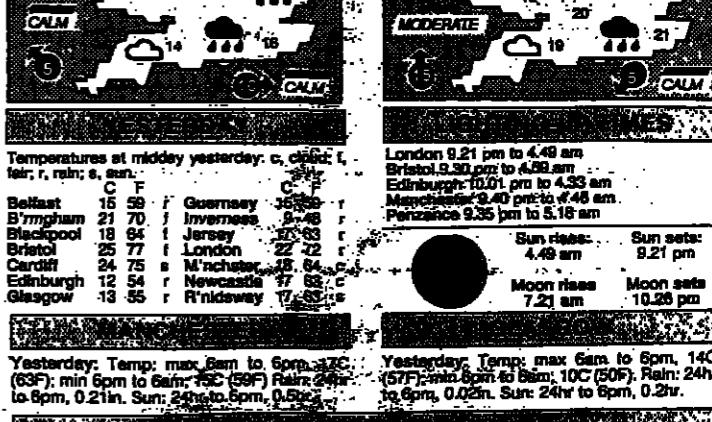
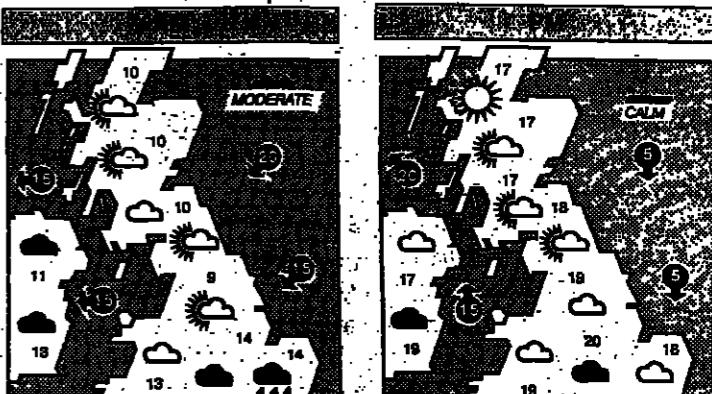
Clue: A PS/2 is proverbially the best (3,3).

ANSWER: Top saw

Bank Buys

Australia 5 284 246
Austria Sch 3 120 120
Belgium 7 50 50
Carlsba 2,405 2,245
Denmark Kr 10,911 10,911
Finland 8 1,101 1,101
Germany Dm 3,03 2,83
Greece Dr 300 345
Hungary Ft 15,32 15,32
Ireland Pt 1,137 1,056
Italy Lira 2,300 2,145
Japan Yen 25,200 25,200
Netherlands Gld 3,42 3,19
Norway Kr 11,82 11,12
Portugal Esc 2,000 2,000
South Africa R 6,05 5,45
Spain Pta 180 177
Sweden Kr 11,05 10,25
Switzerland Fr 2,200 2,000
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USA \$ 2,007 1,872
Yugoslavia Dinar 0 0

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.



Yesterdays: Temp: max 6pm to 6pm, 19C (56F); min 6pm to 6pm, 14C (57F); Wind: 0-10; Rain: 24hr, 0.21in. Sun: 24hr, 6.50hr. Df: 0.21in. Temp: max 6pm to 6pm, 19C (56F); min 6pm to 6pm, 14C (57F); Wind: 0-10; Rain: 24hr, 0.21in. Sun: 24hr, 6.50hr. Df: 0.21in. Temp: max 6pm to 6pm, 19C (56F); min 6pm to 6pm, 14C (57F); Wind: 0-10; Rain: 24hr, 0.21in. Sun: 24hr, 6.50hr. Df: 0.21in.

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Yester

FILMS p3
The glow of genius...
Bergman's latest script

LIFE & TIMES

THURSDAY JULY 2 1992

BOOKS p5
Intellectuals' running battle with mass culture



S 3

Have drawing board, will travel

British architects are suffering — out of work, plans on ice, fees cut, designs by-passed. Where can they turn?

Marcus Binney considers the options

British architects are in the grip of a recession. According to Richard MacCormack, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), "nearly a third of architects are out of work and a lot of practices are out of business".

Even Sir Richard Rogers is not immune to the effects of financial belt-tightening. He has seen his plans frozen for a prestige headquarters for Daiwa, the Japanese stockbrokers, on a large site north of St Paul's. "We have battened through to win planning permission only to find the project on indefinite hold." For years Rogers has complained that British developers only wanted standard concrete boxes. Daiwa was different, an amazing drum with a Crystal Palace atrium capped by stepped hanging gardens.

Nearby in the City of London, plans for an elegant lozenge-shaped block by Sir Norman Foster over Aldersgate are also suspended, as is the ambitious scheme by the late Sir James Stirling for replacing Wool House behind Pall Mall. John Outram's Babylonian designs for 200 Queen Victoria Street are on ice as well as Michael Hopkins's plans for a development next to Marylebone Station.

Even harder hit are the numerous gifted young architects who, prompted by the boom, set up on their own and now find themselves with no work at all.

Yet for all the talent that emerged in the Eighties, the bonanza of planning permissions produced a staggering amount of bad, or indifferent architecture. Developers, and the City quantity surveyors who advised them, repeatedly miscalculated.

First, they imagined a demand for vast trading floors which never materialised. Second, they became obsessed with providing huge floor areas in which entire companies or departments could be accommodated on one level, never mind how far they might be from a window. In the mad scramble to build, quantity took over from quality, despite the abundance of granite cladding, marble floors and brass fittings.

MacCormack believes the present government is actually contributing to the problems faced by architects today: "quality is being forgotten as the Monopolies Commission and Office of Fair Trading pressure the RIBA to abandon traditional fee scales in an effort to reduce architects' charges. You just can't reconcile the duty of care with the level of reward architects are being driven down to," says MacCormack.

There is also government pressure to reduce public funding of architectural education. "The irony is that this comes at the very moment when we have 39 schools from all over the world wanting recognition from the RIBA," he adds.

No need to hide that light under a bushel

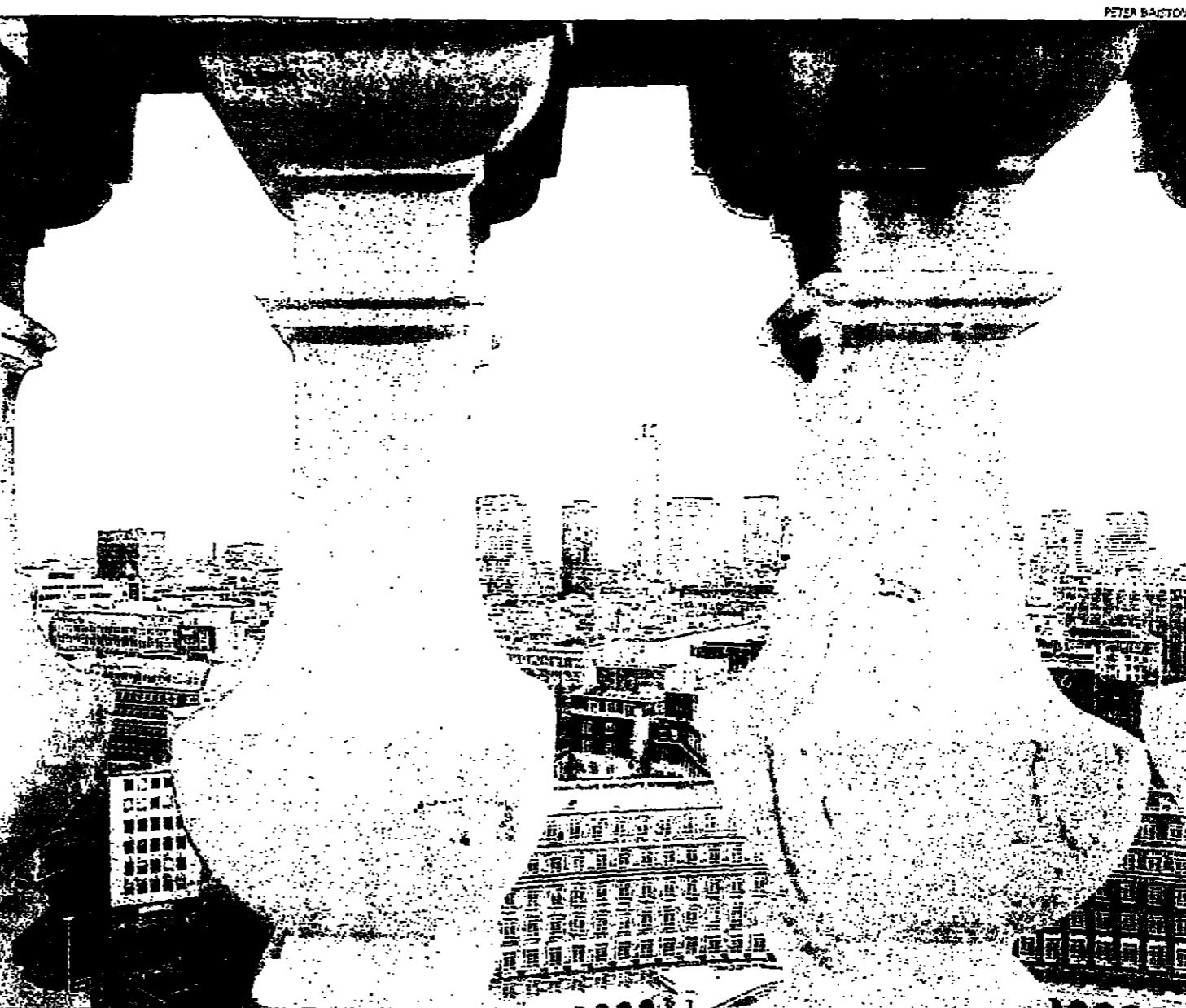
PRIVATE LIFE
John Diamond on taking the bite out of peccadilloes



That I say girl and not woman had nothing to do with her age and everything to do with her general demeanour: the cantilevered bodice binding the very troumous portion of her bosom, the teetering heels, the bummocks, as they passed us, rolling like some strange soft machine under the tight bandage of her tiny skirt. She wasn't a pretty girl and certainly not a beautiful one, but as she walked past us and along the road we sat in the awed silence that men adopt when they are too old, self-conscious or ideologically sound to wolf-whistle.

I wondered, aloud, whether this girl had ever got used to the fact that whenever she passed pairs of men sitting on stoops everything went quiet. Did she know why the silence fell, or did she think that all men everywhere were talking about her and stopped out of politeness when she passed? "Nah," said Chaim. "You have to understand that she's never actually seen a man talk. She probably thinks they can't."

Which was a little unfair. It was a hot day, it wasn't unreasonable that a tall, leggy blonde should cover her in a modest couple of square centimetres of Lyra as she walked up the road to church or to give blood or to do her weekly selfless stint at the Oxfam shop. It's just



Blocked from opportunity: the number of vacant new buildings in London makes it harder for architects to find work now that recession has put an end to the boom

desperately need advice on how to repair and revive battered, broken down towns. What they get is a rash of hideous, high-rise office blocks and glitz hotels."

The sheer number of new buildings in London might seem a further 'block' to architects finding new work. But Jan Kaplicky of Future Systems believes that most of these will never be let. "In five

FEARON O'MAHONY

years' time no one will want to be associated with this kind of image. Even if the rent is low, these deep-plan, air-conditioned buildings are hideously expensive to run. The office of the future will be naturally ventilated, naturally lit, judged by the energy saved in construction methods as well as running costs."

Marco Goldschmid, one of Sir Richard Rogers's partners, says the

Tchaik Chassay believes British architects should follow the example of the Geordie builders who descended on Docklands in the Eighties, camping in their vans for ten-day stints. "My whole office has been going to German classes and we're linking up with German practices, some of whom have

looking at their towns with a view to marketing themselves better."

Where will future commissions come from? Marco Goldschmid is confident that big corporate clients will spend money where there is a specific need for a new building. Sir Richard Rogers and Partners have just secured a contract from Smith Kline Beecham to look at their large prime site along the M4. He also says: "Insurance companies and pension funds will have to look seriously at the numerous empty spec offices they own and consider redesigning them. It's irresponsible to sit on large buildings they know they cannot let."

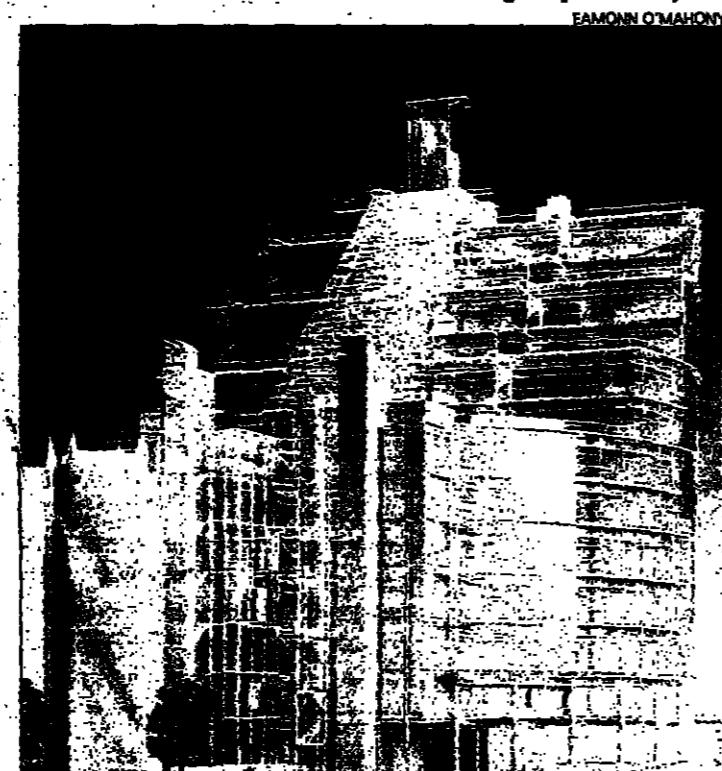
While the construction industry became dependent on imports in the 1980s, British architects have remained a net exporter. "There is a huge range of talent available from the high tech of Norman Foster and Nicholas Grimshaw to

the craft work of architects like Outram and Cullinan," Goldschmid says. "British architects combine technical expertise with the capacity for lateral thinking. It's the opposite of the 'we do it this way' attitude you get in Germany."

In the end, though, are there simply too many architects? "When the polytechnics get university status there will be 22 schools of architecture producing up to a thousand graduates a year," Goldschmid points out. "It's many more than a country like Britain can hope to sustain."

TOMORROW

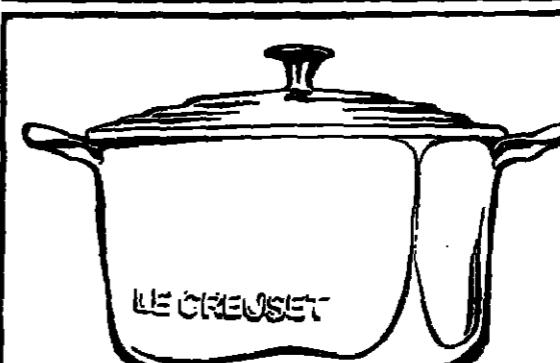
What is London Zoo's future? Valerie Grove talks to Gerald Durrell



Frozen: Sir Richard Rogers's planned headquarters for Daiwa

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MARIO AND THE MAGICIAN: The 34th in a series of Stephen Oliver's operas, Mario and the Magician, by Thomas Luis de Victoria, concludes the Almeida Opera, a new co-production between the English Theatre and the Glyndebourne Festival Opera, at English National Opera, which features contemporary opera, concerts, cabaret and recitals. Freewheeling, spontaneous and irreverent, by Muzica del Chirico in Bari, Italy, Oliver's work deals with bigoted, and smasher music in 1920s small-town Italy. The cast includes Mark Padmore and Richard Jackson. Conductor: the Almeida Ensemble. Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London N1 107-1359 2404, 8pm.

GURELJEDER: Young Musicians' Concert, featuring the young Blair, with James Taylor, soprano, performs Arnold Schoenberg's Expressionist work based upon poems by the Dame J. P. Jacob. Queen's Hall, South Bank, London SE1 1071-928 8800, 7.30pm.

MICHAEL HAMBURGER: Born in Berlin in 1932, the distinguished poet, critic and translator who came to Britain as a boy, reads a selection of his poems, including his political lyrics, satires and political poems to poems about place, dream and exile. Festival Hall, Royal Box, South Bank, London SE1 1071-928 8800, 7.30pm.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: 50th anniversary concert, featuring a cross-section of his wide-ranging repertoire. On the programme is Stravinsky's *Cleopatra*, Beethoven's Symphony No 8 in F, and Berio's *Four O'Clock*. Royal Albert Hall, London SE1 1071-928 8800, 7.30pm.

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AS YOU LIKE IT: Catherine Harrison and Oliver Parker find true love in the forest; Mata Hari's first love. production. Open Air, Regent's Park, London NW1 020 7344 1200, mat 8pm, mat 9pm, Sat 3.30pm, 180mins.

DEATH AND THE MAIDENS: Angel Dorman's scorching psychological drama on the looking for revenge. Geraldine James and Paul Freeman now join Michael Bryne. Donmar Warehouse, St Martin's Lane, WC2 1071-612 5122, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 120mins.

DELIARIA: Jimmy Porter 36 years on. Osborne's hero cents and whimpers but in a vacuum and Peter Egan seems too good-natured to be the Angry Old Man. Donmar Warehouse, St Martin's Lane, WC2 1071-612 5122, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 120mins.

THE DYBLIN: Julie Pascal's ground-breaking new version of the famous Yiddish drama, transposed to a ghetto in 1942. New End, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW3 020 7344 1200, mat 8pm, Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sun, 4pm, 80mins.

FEUDING O'BRIENS: Revival of Declan Donnellan's scorching 1989 staging of Lopez de Vega's drama of civic solidarity. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 1071-228 2252, Tonight, 7.30pm, mat today 2.30pm, 120mins.

IN THE MIDNIGHT HOUR: Incredibly, the first television revivial of the likes of Sophie and Julie. Philip Ryans' 1987 script has been rewritten for a Young Vic company on top form. Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 1071-928 6363, Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, 165mins.

A JUDGEMENT IN STONE: Sheila Hancock leads a powerful cast in intense drama on the 19th century. Ian Hendel's film directorial debut tells a very nice, middle-class family. Lyric Hammersmith, Lyric Street, W6 020 741 2311 Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 4pm, 135mins. ■ **THE MADNESS**

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NEW RELEASES

• **GLADIATOR** (15): Tawdry, predictable tale of renegades pugilists on Chicago's South Side. Marchal, Cuban, boxing; dir, director, Rowdy Hemmings. Odense (Kensington) 020 914665 West End 020 9155749 UCI Whiteman 071-7332.

• **LADYBUGS** (PG): Demol vehicle for pop-eyed comic Andrew Duffield, put in charge of a soccer team. Duffield, Sibley, Fenton. MGM/Hammerstein 071-439 1572. MGM Oxford Street 071-636 0310.

THE PLAYER (15): Dazzling satire on Hollywood, directed by Robert Altman from Michael Tolkin's novel. Tom Robbins as the studio executive who kills a writer, plus cameos and wall-arts galore. Odense (Lester) 020 741 4356. **CURRENT**

• **SHOOTING IRON** (18): San Francisco detective Michael Caine is a top-dick, murder suspect, Sharon Stone ride a sorid psychosexual rollercoaster. Director, Paul Verhoeven. MGM/Broadway Street 071-935 9722. **THE HOUSE** (15): A house in a basement, with a basement. Director, John Niven. Pantomine Street 071-230 0531. MGM Shaftesbury Street 071-736 6737. **EUROPA, EUROPA** (15): Jewish boy saves his life by posing as an Aryan German. Decent if superficial rendering of a true wartime story from writer-

ENTERTAINMENTS

CINEMAS

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon St, Tottenham Court Rd, WC1 020 7834 1111, mat 8pm, Sat 9pm. **ENTRANCE:** presentation in 70mm. **Woolton:** Hop Street, 10th Floor, 020 7436 1111.

HOWARDS END (PG-13): In

1930s, a woman's life is turned

upside down by a man from

the past. **Prizes:** 2.00, 5.30, 6.40, 8.30.

CURZON WEST (G): **Shining**

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LONG DAY'S JOURNEY (15): A

life of a man who has

nothing left. **Prizes:** 2.00, 5.30,

6.40, 8.30.

CURZON WENT (G): **Shining**

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6.40, 8.30.

CURZON WENT (G): **Shining**

AVC W1 071 429 4805 **THE**

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Bergman's light shines through

Cinema: *The Best Intentions, The Inner Circle, The Rapture* and the rest of this week's releases reviewed by Geoff Brown

Ingmar Bergman may have officially retired from film direction, yet his genius marches on. In *The Best Intentions* (Lumière, Gate Nothing Hill, 12), he provided only the script, a reconstruction of his parents' turbulent courtship and marriage. But its crisp dialogue and emotional resonance carry the film to victory. Here are the same themes that coursed through Bergman's glorious swansong, *Fanny and Alexander*: the intertwining of love and pain, the sense of lives moulded and warped by family and religion.

When he first saw the film, Bergman gave Bille August, his chosen director, a rapturous hug. August (best known for the Oscar-winning *Pelle the Conqueror*) certainly deserves credit for giving the actors room to shine. Pernilla Ostergren August (the director's wife) is particularly impressive as Bergman's spoilt, headstrong mother, struggling to make a success of her marriage to an impoverished divinity student (Samuel Fröler). This is true cinema acting, the emotions conveyed through glances, scowls, pursed mouths and the play of light behind the eyes.

As a director, however, August inevitably lacks the master's own touch. He leans towards textbook correctness: regimented close-ups, sedate compositions, no fire or surprises. Possibly the curse of the small screen is at work. For *The Best Intentions*, three hours long and produced by a phalanx of European broadcasters, also exists as a four-part, six-hour television series. Photographically, it deserves the cinema's space: the extra room lets the images bloom and the settings breathe (Anna Asp, the production designer, also worked on *Fanny and Alexander*). But assorted characters cry out for more footage, such as the family patriarch played by Max von Sydow, or the anti-clerical Nordenson, who casts a dark shadow over the couple's life in a far-flung parsonage. Young Ingmar himself, incidentally, never appears. By the tale's end, in July 1918, he remains inside his mother's belly.

Though drawn from life, Bergman's script should not be taken as the gospel truth. His mother's name was Karin, not as here, Anna; other details are changed to suit the dramatist. What matters is emotional veracity: Bergman's script and August's actors forcefully convey these tortured lives seen-sawing between darkness and light. For its script and performances, if nothing else, *The*



Impressive: Pernilla Ostergren August as Ingmar Bergman's spoilt, headstrong mother, struggling to make a success of her marriage

Best Intentions well deserves its Cannes Festival Palme d'Or.

Across now to Stalin's Soviet Union for *The Inner Circle* (Odeon Haymarket, 15), an intriguing film by Andrei Konchalovsky that never finally makes the grade. In theory here was the perfect project to wipe the slate clean after Hollywood took *Tango & Cash*. Konchalovsky returned to his Russian homeland to tell the true story of Stalin's film projectionist during the 1940s, an innocent at large among demons. Everyone did their homework, and the authorities allowed the cameras inside the Kremlin. This was going to be serious stuff.

So it remains, at least when the spotlight stays with Stalin, the gob-smacked projectionist and the sidekicks gathered in the plush screening room where Uncle Joe views purloined Nazi newsreels and *The Great Waltz*. These scenes shiver with fear, paranoia and the terror of a dictator ruling with an iron whim.

But there are limits to the film's success: Tom Hulce (the projectionist) throws himself body and soul into his Russian accent, but the international cast plays havoc with authenticity. The skinned script, too, gives the actors a hard time.

As the projectionist's wife, Lolita Davidovich is forced to veer wildly

between dutiful country girl and KGB troll, while the naivety of Hulce's character gradually becomes tiresome. Elsewhere, Bob Hoskins contributes an amusing vaudeville turn as the KGB head, and Alexandre Zbruev's smiling Stalin has an eerie presence. Gripping in parts, exhilarating in others: what is the Russian for curate's egg?

Perfection is also lacking in Michael Tolkin's *The Rapture* (MGM Tottenham Court Road, 18), though any film that begins with four-way sex and ends with the Last Trump deserves a hearty handshake for its daring. As in *The Player*, Tolkin is fascinated by California's follies and the American spiritual malaise, but in this earlier film (his directorial debut) his approach is far different. Expect no swinging, joke-filled canvas: this disarming tale of a disaffected woman who becomes Born Again carries a fable's stark intensity.

"There has to be something more," Mimi Rogers' telephone operator declares. So she joins a fundamentalist cult, complete with boy prophet and is lured to the desert with her little girl to await God. From that point on, the film lifts off with scenes of jolting power, and Rogers's performance throughout is exemplary.

Tolkin remains the sceptical observer, but is careful never to belittle the fundamentalists' beliefs; while his plain directorial style, whether born

of inexperience or not, keeps emotional manipulation at bay. Too many American movies spoon-feed their audiences papa *The Rapture* is food for grown-ups.

At one time, Hollywood's escapist dreams shone with wit and intelligence. Witness *Sabotage* (Empire, U), back in the cinemas for its 50th anniversary. The revival print does less than justice to Arthur Edeson's black-and-white photography, but the script's sardonic humour and the exotic atmosphere at Rick's Cafe American seem as seductive as ever.

There are flaws: there always were, and time has magnified a few. In wartime, we might approve Bogart's莽ness in letting Ingrid Bergman, the light of his life, fly off through the fog with Resistance hero Paul Henreid. Now Henreid appears a cold fish, unworthy of any self-sacrifice. Even Bogart — though this may be heresy — is somewhat dull: a muttering grouch in a white tuxedo.

But many sparks fly around this triangle. Dooley Wilson ripples the ivories. Sydney Greenstreet parades his fez; best of all, Claude Rains steals every scene as the elegantly unscrupulous Friend of Police. Howard Koch, one of the writers, once complained about the script's implausibilities. "Don't worry what's logical," the director Michael Curtiz shouted, "I

make it go so fast no-one notices." So he does.

Logic takes the back seat again in *The Butcher's Wife* (MGM Trafalgar, 12). Demi Moore is a chair-vigilant child of nature from North Carolina. Convinced she has met her Adonis, she marries a vacationing butcher and returns with him to Greenwich Village, spreading chaos through the sanitised neighbourhood. Jeff Daniels, Mary Steenburgen and other good souls skilfully navigate the whimsy, though the dollops of artifice ultimately induce severe toothache. At the helm is Terry Hughes, a British television director now at large in the States.

When a movie begins with a definition from the *Chilicote Encyclopaedia of Arcane Knowledge*, you know your patience is going to be taxed. So it proves with *Sleepwalkers* (Odeon West End, 18). Inexplicably directed by Mick Garris plays a part, but the burden of guilt chiefly rests with Stephen King's absurd script.

Sleepwalkers are repellent creatures in human form who drink the life force of virgins; they can change shape, become invisible, and are terrified of cats. A good fight proves impossible when the monsters are so confused. The forlorn cast includes Paul Krause as the reptile in hunk's clothing, Mädchen Amick as the nubile heroine, and a posse of pussies who would not hurt a mouse.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Saved by a pair of class acts

What would Allan Cubitt's *The Countess Alice* (BBC 2 last night) have been like without Wendy Hiller and Zoe Wanamaker? The plot was poorly constructed, the dialogue flat. Yet the play lived and, at times, even shone. Call it necromancy, call it alchemy, call it creative witchcraft, call it God knows what: it was a classic demonstration of the power of expert acting to resuscitate and transform.

Seldom can a piece have opened more misleadingly. A beaming Hitler made an appearance behind the credits, as did Oswald Mosley and assorted bright young things of the 1930s. Then came stills from a charity pageant performed by some society beauties, among them the young Englishwoman who was to become the Countess Holendorf and survive into the 1990s. Dame Wendy may be nearly 80, but her concentration is undimmed. Certainly, few actresses of any age can express emotion with such quiet intelligence and unaffected dignity. Yet it was just as much Wanamaker's evening.

Is there a more underused actress in the British theatre? Perhaps that sad-clown face of hers — its mouth instinctively fixed in a sort of damaged smile — discourages directors from casting her in the major parts she has surely earned the right to play. If so, we should all be protesting, for her ability deftly to suggest vulnerability, loss and grief are without compare. This role did not hugely stretch her, but there were still moments when she might almost have been Eve just after the exit from Eden: hurt, bewildered, betrayed.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

YORK EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Italy reclaims its renaissance glories

Until recently the revival of medieval and renaissance music has been driven largely by English speaking musicians. France and Italy, where most of the best music was composed, have been slow in producing performers of stature, but this is changing.

There are now several superb French exponents of the early chanson literature, and Italy has begun to follow suit.

Ten days ago I was lucky enough to hear in Florence the ensemble Sine Nomine, who are well set to change our view of the glorious Trecento songs.

And it is easy to predict as much for the madrigal singing of Fosco Corti, who presented two concerts at this year's shortened York Early Music Festival. One obvious virtue is their heightened awareness of the precise musical weight of every word — a matter of prime importance for the madrigals of Marenzio and Monteverdi in their second concert. But they also have a wonderful ensemble and balance. A splendidly expressive approach to tempo was matched by velvety chording.

Most impressive was the way they could modify colour, particularly in those short, quicksilver madrigals of Monteverdi, brought out with stunning clarity. Some of the credit

DAVID FALLOWS

Dream and nightmare meet

Heather Neill talks to Robert Lepage and Michael Levine about *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the National



Being outsiders is an advantage: Lepage and Levine

kept returning to the watery theme in their own contributions and, at the end of the week, everyone was astonished to find that the text of *The Dream* is full of references to flood and tempest.

But let nobody imagine that the muddy lake has a purely naturalistic purpose or that

The Dream is an unmitigated Nightmare. "We have balanced nightmare and nice dreams," says Lepage. "The summer fantasy is fine, but there are deeper, darker areas. The darkness is the darkness of adolescent sexuality. It is the most wonderful and, at the same time, the most scary moment of your life." The ghosts of Freud and Jung stalk Lepage's magic world. "The forest represents a slippery environment full of traps. The

play is full of mirrors, doubling, coupling, seeing images and reflections."

Designer and director relish the combination of the physical with the intellectual. The mud is, for Levine, "a purely sensual idea". But it is also a metaphor: the characters, getting dirtier by the minute, become embroiled in the complications of the plot and, literally, wallow in experience.

For Lepage, the play is a pattern of many people's dreams. "It is a play within a play: a dream within a dream within a dream. When a character wakes up under the influence of the magic potion, that is another dream stage."

Lepage and Levine are both struck by the notion of hierarchies in the play: the court, the



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ARTS BRIEF

Pru picks winners

Sylvester (visual arts). The individual award will also be announced on November 15.

Wigmore back

NOVEMBER 12 has been fixed as the date when the Wigmore Hall will reopen after its 18-month refurbishment. A gala reopening concert will have a Shakespeare theme, and include Vaughan Williams's *Serenade to Music* with 16 solo singers. The 91-year-old Wigmore has been given a new restaurant and enlarged foyer and backstage areas.

Last chance

JAZZED-UP Rosini arias and overtures occupied the opening set of Mike Westbrook's season at Ronnie Scott's Club, London, W1 (071-439 0747), confirming Westbrook's reputation for tackling off-beat subjects. With a band including the underrated alto saxophonist Alan Barnes, Westbrook ends his residency on Saturday.

Also announced are the five nominees for the Arts Council Award (a £5,000 prize, also sponsored by Prudential), presented to an individual who has shown innovation over the last five years. The nominees are Lloyd Newson (dance), Sir Charles Mackerras (opera), Simon Rattle (music), Cicely Berry (theatre) and David

Five arts organisations are each £25,000 richer as a result of winning this year's Prudential Awards for the Arts. They are Dance Umbrella, Opera North, the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, the Field Day Theatre Company from London, and the Chisenhale Gallery in London. One of those organisations will receive a further £75,000 when the overall winner is announced on November 15.

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Harbouring antique dreams



A million visitors are expected at "Brest 92", a festival of old-fashioned and historic sailing vessels, Rob van Mesdag reports

On July 7, 24 "old gaffers" — sailing boats so named because of their old-fashioned rigs — will be setting off from Falmouth to race to Brest, in Brittany, for the world's largest and most spectacular rally in the world of historic sailing, rowing and motor boats and everything connected therewith, from boat building to boat racing, from tying knots to singing shanties. In preserving their maritime heritage the French now leave the rest of the world in their wake.

A team of 20 executives is coordinating the work of hundreds of helpers preparing to accommodate, in the city's historic Penfold docks, a fleet of 2,500 antique sailing vessels from all over the world and a wooden boat show with 400 exhibitors. 80 of whom are British. There will be displays of replica ships still under construction, five stages from which 2,500 musicians will give 300 concerts, races and sail-handling demonstrations in Brest harbour and scores of quayside restaurants where vast quantities of grilled fish will be washed down with gallons of Muscadet.

On July 15 those still capable will race to Douarnenez, 30 miles further south, where, until the 18th the new inland harbour of historic boats belonging to the Musée du Bateau, a former sardine factory, will be inaugurated. The "Brest 92" festival will attract about a million visitors.

Twenty years ago France had no "old gaffers" to speak of. The occasional student or impetuous yachtsman might have acquired and patched up an old fishing boat such as a "misiére" with just one lug sail (misiére, mizzen or "sardine" (sardine fisherman) carrying two. But around 1970 the "old gaffers" case was strengthened by *Bateaux des côtes de France*, a book by François Beaujouan, and some years later appeared the three-volume work AR VAG, describing the history, design and construction of every fishing and cargo boat that used to be known around the coast of Brittany. Both became bibles to ship preservationists.

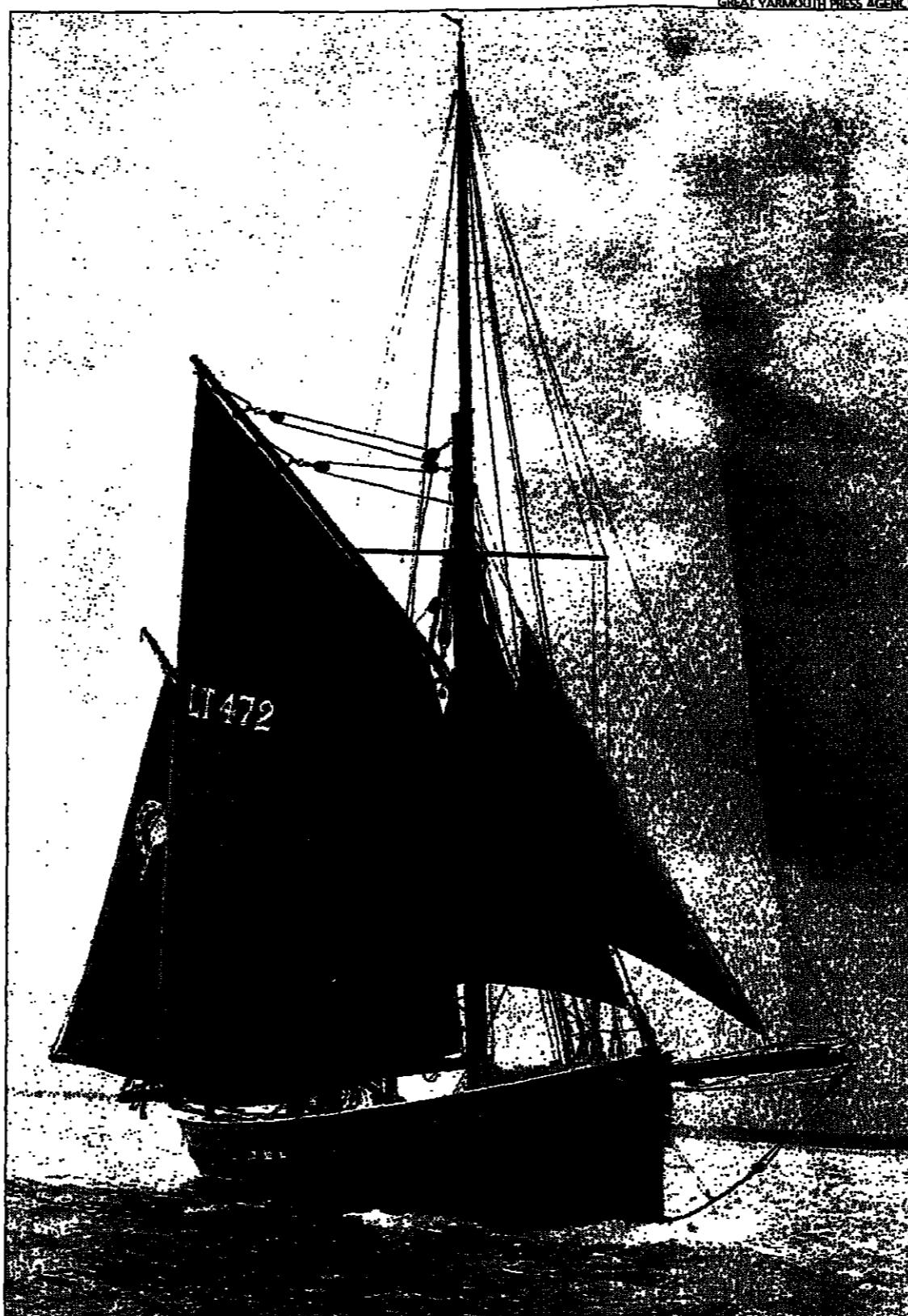
But it was not until 1981 that a new magazine called *Chasse-Marée* began raising awareness of France's maritime heritage on a major scale.

Through articles on subjects as varied as the history of individual types of fishing craft, the songs women sang while cleaning fish, the transport of timber from France's woods to shipyards on the coast, or catching sea gulls on board trawlers off Newfoundland, its founder editors Bernard and Michèle Cadoret struck a sensitive chord. Gradually associations were organised to save rotting wrecks. France's Ministry of Culture became involved financially, and boatyards began thinking "wood" again. The magazine took its name from the faster boats in a fishing fleet, which, loaded with fish taken on board from colleagues far out at sea, would "chase" the "mariée" — the tide — in order to reach the market as fast as possible.

Now, only ten years later, the Cadorets have a staff of 30 dealing with such concomitant activities as book, music, poster and video publishing, boat festival organisation, and a consultancy on anything to do with maritime heritage. They are esteemed throughout the antique boating world and their example has inspired other comparable publications such as, in this country, *Classic Boat*, *The Boatman* and *The Yachtsman*.

When the magazine organised a campaign, "Bateaux des Côtes de France", invoking every coastal town or village to restore or build a replica of its once profuse, now extinct local craft, 130 local groups from all along France's coastline took up the challenge, and 80 of the resulting vessels will be present at the festival. For instance there will be Le Renard, a 60-foot privateer from St Malo, recalling that city's predominance in North American waters against our country in the early 1800s. And there will be fishing craft from well-known places such as Quimper, La Rochelle, Camaret, Nantes, Fécamp, Marquise. One of the highlights at "Brest 92" will be the launch of the magnificent 95-foot fighting schooner "La Recouvrance" built by the people of Brest after the original ship of that name dating from 1817.

Chasse Marée have appointed Charles Payton as their representative in this country. Apart from the Falmouth fleet soon under way, and the 80 exhibitors at the show, some 700 other British boats will be making their way across. In addition



The trawler Excelsior (above) is one of the British entries; boys in France (above left) sing sea shanties

to carrying on with his profession — he is a probate genealogist — Mr Payton has had to contact every heritage organisation in this country. The owner of a Thames launch — "polished like a mahogany dining table" — he had little difficulty in persuading his own Thames Vintage Boat Club. But encouraging others proved difficult because of the expense.

Fortunately, Brittany Ferries came to the rescue in the shape of "substantially reduced fares". As a result, the British will be numerous at Brest. Entries include The Thames Wherry Trust, organisers of The Great River Race (on the Thames this

autumn), the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships, the Thames Traditional Boat Society, the Thames Barge Sailing Club, the Historic Dockyard Chatham, the Yachting World Day Boat Association and trawlers such as Providence and Excelsior and Thames barges such as Ironside, Cabby and Lady Daphne. The latter will be carrying Robin Knox-Johnston. Even HM Customs will be there.

Of course, other countries will have equally impressive participation. The Dutch are arriving in a huge coaster with some of their country's characteristic shallow-bottomed "boeiers" on board. From Scandinavia will come Viking ships and the Americans hope to sail over two real J class racing yachts.

To help get "Brest 92" under way there will be a buffet for every yachtsman, crew member, exhibitor or helper. This will be on July 10 from 6pm. Twelve thousand people are expected and it is all free.

• "Brest 92": (010 33 98 00 92 92). The festival coincides with July 14, France's National Day, when roads and towns are crowded. Car drivers can get buses from designated car parks, while rail passengers can walk from the station. Hotels are booked up but BB&B's are available. Bookings can be made via the Syndicat d'Initiative (010 33 98 44 24 96).

Could you live in it?

FRANCE
AT HOME

whom you are buying lived alone. You are proposing several times a year and perhaps permanently if you are renting to France, to put the demands of a family accustomed to advanced sanitation on the seaway or septic tank. If the house is low lying, is water leaking into the tank, which means you will be paying FF500 to have it pumped out all too often.

That is a clue to why French law is often not much help on the question of habitability. That little old lady found the house perfectly habitable, with its well water, small septic tank and single sink in the kitchen. No doubt its ancient light switches suited her, using one or two rooms at a time. A family, however, should have those switches checked, and the introduction of washing machines and other other devices suggests you may need a ring main.

If all this sounds depressing, there is a brighter side. Even a badly leaking roof may be much less of a problem than it would be in Britain. In many parts of the south and west the



French use overlapping tiles that are not fixed. The Period roof is the best example.

Often a few tiles just mean the slates have slipped and/or they are covered in moss, which retains water and forces it downwards. Looking at the roof through a pair of binoculars, for example, will give a rough guide, but remember it is the underneath tiles that are the most important. A day's work on the roof could make it waterproof.

Connecting to mains water is not expensive but make sure there is a main in the village. Renewing all the electricity cables can be expensive, but we needed only new power points and a couple of cables. With electricity the most important thing to do is to get an electrician to check that the supply will meet your needs.

So a definition of habitable? Make sure it means whatever you need it to mean. But be realistic: the price attraction of rural France means it should not be approached using the standards that apply in the Surrey commuter belt.

PETER BARNARD

• Next week: the cost of renovation

Taste the high life in France and save 25 per cent with a Privilege Card

Stay in a château

Gentilhommières de France

copy of the *Gentilhommières de France* guide and the price list. The card will entitle the holder to the following discounts and privileges:

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Bookings must be made in advance through the Château-Welcome office, and are based on the Château-Welcome 1992/93 price list. The offer is valid for all stays up to and including June 30, 1993. The normal booking conditions of Château-Welcome will apply to all reservations made as part of this offer.

Readers booking as part of the offer will have a complimentary edition of *The Times* supplied to them by their hosts each day.

HOW TO BOOK

Bookings must be made in advance through the Château-Welcome office. Bookings must be accompanied by three Château tokens. Send an A5 size (value 54p first-class or 41p second-class) to: Château-Welcome, GDF Promotion, PO Box 66, 94 Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 1XS. Offer subject to availability.



Charm with an artistic eye

Overlooking the river Isle, Le Chausfouer is a delightful 17th-century family house surrounded by gardens, meadows and grounds running down to the private water's edge. The owner, Georges Dambier — a former fashion photographer for Chanel — and his wife Chantal, are happy to share with their guests the joys of life in the Périgord, their secret fishing spots, the pleasure of forest walks and the delights of southwest France such as regional cuisine, châteaux, famous vineyards and prehistoric grottoes.

One has only to look at this house to see that it has been designed with the eye of a photographer. From the bedroom windows, framed by magnolia trees, there is a superb view over the swimming pool to the river below. The gardens were designed by

Provençal landscape architect.

The guest rooms are furnished with antiques and works by artist friends of M Dambier. The hosts will accompany guests to play golf, or for riding nearby. They can offer dinner if asked in advance and guests may find M Dambier telling the tale of his ancestor Guillaume who was forced to flee to Spain in the reign of Louis XV for killing a lord who tried to stop him from hunting.

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FRANCE

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Of the French first impressions I solicited in floods, thank you! the oldest are the most startling. In the 1920s and 1930s, before the car-ferries and the package tours, upper-class Britons seem to have used France with lordly confidence as a sort of culture-bearing annex and finishing school. Long after the Grand Tour tradition had died down, France was somehow considered vaguely necessary to the production of a rounded gentleman or lady. "My father", records one letter, "thought it essential we should speak French with the governess there for a month each year, but confined himself to very loud English shouting."

Not everyone accompanied their children. Pat Walker, who was nine in 1924, had been left in a "baby farm" in Britain by her Anglo-Indian parents, but was summarily removed because her mother, on a visit of inspection, objected to her Gloucestershire accent. France was clearly a better cultural bet, so in the care of two maiden ladies who spoke no French she was sent to lodge with a Normandy war widow and warned to keep a candle burning all night because "Rats ate the toes of Simone's little sister".

Also from India, but under rather closer parental care, was the painter Sir John Verney in 1921. He was nine. "We went to look at the trenches, which made a great impact. My mother, who was



Trouble with the au pair: John Julius Cooper

woman, picked up a shell which she brought back on the train to Paris. The Siamese widow, my father's friend, came to meet us and was horrified. "That thing could go off," he said, and hurled it off a bridge into the Seine". His other impressions, from later holidays, are of "a place you go to draw", and of a 1944 journey with the SAS to pick up an escaping British officer from a British beach.

"This chap had been in by parachute and done a bit of stuff. Actually, he was a terrible nuisance, couldn't keep his voice down. There were Germans about and he kept yelling at his batman." Clearly, there is something about France which causes Englishmen to shout. But I wasn't having any of it." This was in 1936. In 1944 his father became ambassador to Paris. At fifteen, he lived in the British Embassy house, honey-gold in its quiet courtyard and gardens, which Nancy Mitford called "a haven of delight... a palace".

"It was the coldest winter for 50 years," remembers Lord Norwich now. "And nobody had any fuel or heating in Paris except us. So every single night 50 or 60 people came for a cocktail party just to keep warm and get a drink. Those people were the leading artists and political lights of Paris, I suppose. Jean Cocteau was there, every single night. But boys aren't impressed by all that. I never thought much about it at the time."

LIBBY PURVES

July 1992

Is man "crooked timber", as Kant thought? Three *Times* critics ponder the nemesis of rationalism

A guillotine for the aristocrats of the intellect

For most of this century, the English have dismissed "intellectuals" as irrelevant bores, foreigners or worse. Now John Carey brings that attack up to date with an account of the antagonism between certain intellectuals and "mass culture", an often malevolent battle, depicted here as a literary foreshadowing of the Holocaust. In this spirit the Holocaust is to be seen "as the ultimate indictment of the idea of the mass and its acceptance by 20th-century intellectuals".

It is in many respects a cogent and persuasive analysis. Carey notes how the rise of the popular newspaper, with its own particular "stories", provided a palatable alternative to the stiffer fiction of the early 20th century (in this book intellectuals, writers and artists tend to be herded together in the pen of high culture). He documents, also, the interest of certain 20th-century intellectuals in eugenics and the extermination of the masses as an apt preface to the deliberate extinction of modernist literature.

Yet the "mass" against which these purblind artists reacted was always an illusion; it was an invention, a metaphor that could be revised to fit the most appropriate set of anxieties, from the pseudo-scientific investigations of Mass Observation, which treated the working class as particularly interesting bacteria, to Freud's atavistic notion of the "primal horde".

Carey is always good with detail, and here he advances the claims of tinned food and the camera as specimens of the "mass" activity which intellectuals hated. But who ate all the tinned salmon? Carey goes on to investigate the role of the suburb and its typical inhabitant, the clerk, as a larger index of intellectual disgust. The suburban sprawl was seen as the end of England, and in the triumph of cheap housing was located some destiny of the spirit.

This was a particular problem for left-wing middle-class intellectuals, whose loyalties were fatally divided, but it posed less of a challenge to conservative intellectuals. In opposition to the values of suburban man, they hoisted the pennant of the "natural aristocrat" who disdained "grey" logic as much as the

imperatives of sentimental humanism. Carey goes on to associate that aristocratic spirit with the feid Catholicism of Greene or Waugh. It is one of many incisive touches.

So Carey makes a persuasive case against these writers, largely on the ground that they actually invented the "mass" which they professed to despise. The only problem is that with this criterion he seems to be damning most of the important writers of the past hundred years, among them Yeats, Hardy, Woolf, D.H. Lawrence, Forster, Waugh, Joyce, Ibsen, Eliot and Huxley.

Only Arthur Conan Doyle and Arnold Bennett emerge relatively unscathed. And of course these are all literary artists. It would have

Lewis, while adding an intriguing postscript on the literary career of Adolf Hitler, who emerges as an orthodox European intellectual. (It is a little unfair to suggest that all supporters of "high" culture are therefore crypto-fascists.)

But then, in the best chapter of this section, he recommends Arnold Bennett both for his imaginative interest in the "intricacy and fecundity of each human life" and for his ability to see the extraordinary within the apparently mundane; his novels are a great plea for the ordinary rhythms of life, for the poor, the failures, the housewives and of course the clerks. In that sense they represent Carey's alternative to the intellectual world of the same period, except that they are no alternative at all. Arnold Bennett is Arnold Bennett, and no other writer could have been expected to imitate him.

And so what, precisely, is Carey suggesting? He cannot be saying that somehow Woolf or Hardy would have been better writers if they had freed themselves from their prejudices, since it may have been their prejudices which made them writers in the first place.

He seems to believe that the intellectuals would have been wiser or nobler if they had embraced "mass culture", but at no point does he list the constituents of that culture. He mentions Jerome K. Jerome, *Tit-Bits* and the *Daily Mail*, as well as tinned salmon, but interesting though these phenomena may be, they do not constitute a serious challenge to the literature of the period. He may only be suggesting that the elements of popular culture are of equal value, or that "value" cannot be determined — in which case he is occupying the same ground as much modern academic theorising. Or his may be the simple *nostalgia de la boue* of an English critic who has an empiricist's disdain for theorising itself.

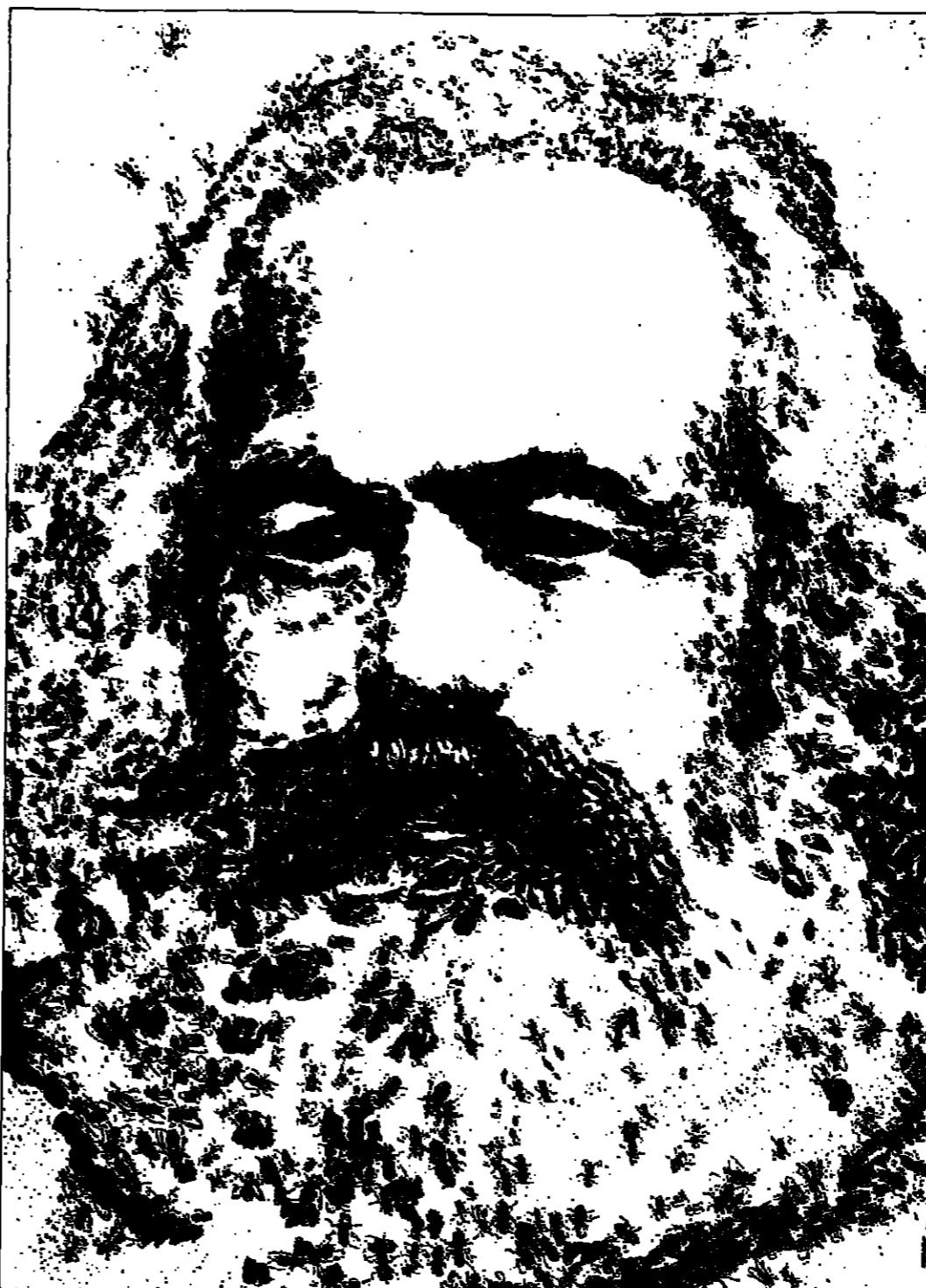
It is enjoyable to see him using the T.S. Eliot Memorial Lectures to demonstrate that Eliot was an inhuman prig, and there are many insights along the way, but in other respects *The Intellectuals and the Masses* remains inconclusive.

PETER ACKROYD

been interesting to see Carey enlarge his argument to take in, for example, painters like those associated with the Euston Road School or the Camden Town Group, who were certainly just as "intellectual" as the novelists of their periods.

There is also the danger of shortening perspective. The disdain of artists for the "mass" is not a recent development, however hard Carey presses the point about a new "mass culture". He quotes Lawrence and Huxley, but he might just as well have employed Spenser's taunt against "the amazed vulgar", or Milton's animus towards "the people but a herd confused / A miscellaneous rabble...". The truth is that most writers have always despised the "herd", and Carey could have mounted a similar attack upon Carlyle and Johnsson, Sidney and Pope.

In the second part of this volume he concentrates upon more recent writers. He plots the divided mind of H.G. Wells, sympathising with the weak even as he jested to destroy them. He scolds George Gissing, and scorns Wyndham



HABENT SUA FATA LIBELLI / НО И ВЕЛИКИЕ ИДЕИ ТАКИЕ КНИГИ ИМЕЮТ СВОЮ СУДЬБУ / ИМЕЮТ СВОЮ «FATA» K. MARKE

"Great Ideas Also Have Their Fates", 1990, a Russian poster by Tatyana Nyemkova, from *Art as Activist: Revolutionary Posters from Central and Eastern Europe* (Thames & Hudson, £15.95 pbk)

JOHN CAREY has certainly combed together a powerful dossier here. It leaves us, as he intends, with a picture of these writers as a huddled little group of frightened narcissists, nursing their meagre and self-regarding gifts, and not worth the time or the trouble of ordinary, decent men and women.

But Carey, though a professor of English literature, has left something out: their writings. He seems to have forgotten that when T.S. Eliot wrote

A crowd flowed over London Bridge, so many, I had not thought death had undone so many

he himself commuted by walking across London Bridge, and was writing about the waste land in his own soul. He seems to have forgotten that Virginia Woolf lived in fear of the featurelessness and shapelessness in herself, far more than that of other people — and reached out to those people through beauti-

fully lucid essays in a book actually called *The Common Reader*.

Carey has left something else out too: the "masses" themselves. Or rather, he has kept the masses in his book, in the same anonymous, lumped-together form that he accuses his writers of seeing them, and has left out the individuals who make up the mass. He does not see that the writers, and those individuals, have a common heritage and common concerns. Of course, the writers were vulnerable and fearful at times, and created bogies for themselves, as we all do. But some of them wrote in new allusive and symbolic forms in order to stretch the range of language.

Carey gives no evidence at all to back up his charge that these forms were deliberately chosen as a sort of barbed wire for the writers to surround their perceptions with. And he ignores the passionate portrayal of lost love and defiant courage in Hardy, Lawrence's feeling for the way deep emotion can grow between people without words. Eliot's search for sacred significance in the commonplace — to give but a handful of examples.

Has Carey forgotten that he once wrote an admiring book on John Donne, whose metaphors were as complex as any poet's have ever been, and who wrote only for his friends? In those days, Carey did not find that this disqualifed a writer from having something to say to mankind.

When he has ditched most of modern literature, what has the professor got left from the 20th century for the "masses" to read? Not much: he does not credit them with much capacity to get out of their little lives and let their imaginations expand. There is the poet Stevie Smith, because she appreciated suburban life there is even a bit of Bejeman, for the same reason, though Carey regards him as mostly unsound. There are bits of Arnold Bennett and rather fewer bits of Wells.

Carey keeps a small squib for his last chapter: he finds that Hitler in *Mein Kampf* spoke about the importance of "high culture" in much the same way as Bloomsbury and many other modern writers have done. This is a brilliant smear — but it forgets that the truth or otherwise of an idea does not depend on who holds it.

In the end, Carey is left all alone. At a time when literature is under attack in the universities from the deconstructionists, he has here abandoned most of it too. But the "masses", in whose name he delivers this condemnation of literature, also seem very remote from him. He has a low, rather sentimental vision of them, but nothing to offer them. He had better lie down in his sad no man's land and curl up without a good book.

DERWENT MAY

Stifled voices of reason



Ernest Gellner: the rationalist "with a siege mentality"

No matter how we wish to define reason, no one disputes that it is an instrument with which mankind succeeded in creating modern science and developing the technical skills on which our civilisation has been built. But is it no more than that? If so, it is certainly a successful tool; but how can it, in addition, make claims to discover truth? Should we define truth by the practical applicability of our knowledge? And does it matter whether our knowledge is true apart from being applicable? Many philosophers throughout history have believed that it does. Truth was supposed to be a value in itself.

Or is reason perhaps an instrument that particular civilisations define, each according to its specific needs and customs? If so, it might happen that what is true in one civilisation is false in another, and then it seems no truth in the sense we normally attach to this word can be saved. What is true, we tend to believe, is true irrespective of time, of a particular culture, of an ethnic tongue. But are there means to ascertain that truth in this sense is accessible at all? Is our knowledge culture-bound? These are time-honoured philosophical questions, and Gellner's book is a rapid survey of various attempts by philosophers and social thinkers to answer them.

Gellner starts with René Descartes, who believed in reason as opposed to tradition, custom, history and authority, and who asserted that this access to truth has been given to us by the Creator, who cannot be a deceiver. Then Gellner goes on to David Hume. While replacing Descartes' "conceptualism" (as Gellner wrongly calls it; this word has usually been reserved for other purposes) by a strictly empiricist doctrine, Hume believed himself to have found an ultimate, and universally human, source of knowledge that is good enough for practical use, even though its results beyond the content of perception are never certain.

Immanuel Kant, according to Gellner, tried to find a cure for Hume's scepticism by insisting that we cannot think differently than we do, because certain mechanisms of thought are irreversibly built

into our minds, and they produce the orderly world. This is a psychological reading of Kant, characteristic of some 19th-century Kantians, but largely abandoned since, as it ignores the crucial difference between what is universally human and what is transpersonal in the Kantian sense.

From Kant, Gellner jumps to Emile Durkheim and his idea of a mental compulsion that is social in origin and is instilled into our mind, by means of religious rituals; this produces the well-ordered universe. Properly epistemological questions are beyond Durkheim's interest, as is also the case with the next topic, Max Weber.

He, in a different way, tried to explain how rationalism was born almost accidentally from a specific religious background. Hegel, Gellner says, made a bold attempt to reconcile the rational and the natural in his theory of the great impersonal mind that imposes its power, step by step, through a historical process which will eventually culminate in the final victory of reason. Marxism is a modified version of the same utopian fantasy. Gellner mentions several theorists who again denounced the claims of reason as a hoax, including Nietzsche and Freud.

Gellner himself adopts what he calls rationalism "with a siege mentality". It abandons the belief in a benevolent cosmos promising us a happy ending to our history; it assumes instead that the universe is hostile and gives no

REASON AND CULTURE
The Historic Role of Rationalism and Rationality
By Ernest Gellner
Blackwell, £35 or £10.99 pbk

Kuhn (science at any stage of its development lives on pre-suppositions that have no higher authority); late Wittgenstein (the validity of knowledge is to be always related to a "language game"); and Noam Chomsky (thinking is subject to rules that are inborn, usually unconscious, and their "rationality" cannot be a matter of discussion, as there is no tribunal of appeal).

And Gellner repeats the old question: how could we prove, without circular argument, that reason itself is reasonable? There is no good answer to this question, but we may go on using our reason without *ultimate guarantee*, and we have enough proofs that it works successfully.

The book is elegantly written, lucid, instructive and easy to read. But the reader may have doubts about the selec-

tion of topics and of philosophers under scrutiny. Probably the greatest and the most consistent rationalist in history — Leibniz — is not even mentioned. Neither is Husserl, whose enormous work was almost entirely devoted to the task of saving reason from history, culture and nature. Nor is the greatest, most penetrating critic of analytical reason in our century, Henri Bergson. Absent too are Wilhelm Dilthey and Martin Heidegger — both relevant.

We can easily guess reasons for those omissions. Only those deserve mention who have been included in the curriculum of British universities. Descartes and Max Weber managed to make their way, at least in part, onto the British curriculum. Husserl and Bergson did not; Leibniz, only to a small extent. One of the most persistent themes in European intellectual history — reason versus religion — is barely touched upon (even Pascal is mentioned only on a secondary question, not to speak of medieval thinkers). It may seem futile to complain that a book written in Britain is very British, rather than "continental". The point, however, is not which names were or were not mentioned but rather what crucial questions have been left out as a result. Is there any ultimate justification of logic and mathematics that has seemed to be universally valid, irrespective of "culture"? How can a cultural relativist avoid the notorious self-reference trap? (Is relativism as relative as transcendentalism, and if so, how valid can it be?) Does the distinction between what is historically universal and what is valid for "any rational being" make sense? If Reason's claims to ultimate validity are discarded, are we compelled to accept the pragmatic concept of truth and abandon the idea of truth in the traditional sense?

Without asking such questions we can never come to a conclusion in discussing the topic announced in the title of Gellner's book. But they are admittedly rather "continental", alas. Even the European Community's bureaucrats will probably be incapable of implanting them on British soil.

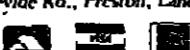
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Slow-down policy planned for fast breeders

The reactors that were thought to represent the future of nuclear power may be phased out. Nigel Hawkes looks at the arguments for keeping the plants in operation

The fast breeder reactor is beginning to look like an endangered species. Last week a confidential study leaked to a French newspaper suggested that the world's only commercial fast breeder, at Creys-Malville, near Lyons, ought to be shut down for safety reasons. Since it opened in 1986, it has operated for only 174 days as a result of sodium coolant leaks.

The Germans have abandoned their fast breeder, while Britain's Dounreay Fast Reactor in Caithness is scheduled for closure in 1994. An offer last year by the chairman of Britain's four nuclear companies — Nuclear Electric, Scottish Nuclear, British Nuclear Fuels and AEA Technology — to keep Dounreay going for another three years has yet to be answered by the government.

The decline of the fast breeder, which for 30 years was thought to represent nuclear power's long-term future, is the starker evidence of the crisis of confidence the industry faces. John Collier, the chairman of Nuclear Electric, believes the policy of phasing out fast breeders is mistaken. Not only do they still represent the best long-term prospect for nuclear generation, he says, but they can also be useful in the medium term for burning the plutonium that will be liberated from nuclear warheads as the cold war winds down.

Fast breeders — so-called because they use fast neutrons and breed more nuclear fuel than they consume — make much better use of the world's uranium supply. A typical reactor of the present

generation, such as the pressurised water reactor being built at Sizewell in Suffolk, uses less than 1 per cent of the natural uranium. The rest is non-fissile uranium-238, which can be used as fuel only if it is first converted into plutonium. This task, the industry has always assumed, would be done in fast breeder reactors whose cores would be surrounded by a "blanket" of uranium-238, converted by the bombardment of neutrons into plutonium. In this way, 50 times more energy could be extracted from the same amount of uranium.

Fast breeders are difficult to design, requiring liquid sodium to keep their tiny cores cool. Sodium leaks from the cooling system have proved the Achilles' heel of Superphénix, preventing it from operating for more than short periods since it was completed in 1986, at a cost of \$5 billion (£2.63 billion). The first leak was sprung within less than a year. With some difficulty it was repaired, but in July 1990 a second leak closed the plant again. The repair of this leak is now nearly complete, and a government committee is examining safety issues before clearing the reactor to begin operation again.

This programme appears to have been thrown into disarray by the leaking in the daily newspaper *Liberation* of a memo from Michel Laverie, the head of the security directorate for nuclear installations, to the industry and environment ministers. M. Laverie is reported to have concluded that Superphénix has "weaknesses and



Too leaky to handle? France's fast breeder is recommended by a safety chief for closure

uncertainties that do not permit proposing to make it operational again". The memo said it would be impossible to operate the reactor "in conformity with strict safety rules" and that any operations should be limited to two years. The directorate's spokesman confirmed that the memo was genuine but said it was confidential.

At the very least, M. Laverie's opinion will make a decision to reopen the reactor controversial. Greenpeace, the environmental group, demanded that M. Laverie's report be made public and denounced what it said were pressures to bend

produces no more. Later, the blanket would be replaced by canisters containing long-lived nuclear isotopes such as neptunium, which would be converted into shorter-lived wastes. The government hopes this process would ease environmental anxieties about the safe disposal of long-lived wastes.

Some scientists see the idea as a gimmick to solve a non-problem. Similar experiments were tried in Britain in the 1970s and dismissed on economic and safety grounds. In any case, there seems little point in designing an expensive reactor to breed fuel and then removing its breeding capability.

Mr Collier suggests that fast breeders might better be used to consume plutonium, of which there will be a glut as weapons are dismantled. "Already 40 tons of plutonium are stored at Sellafield, which we cannot burn in conventional reactors," he says. "If I could burn it at Sizewell, it would be enough to last for 100 years. Fast breeders are the only way. It is the ultimate swords-into-ploughshares argument."

The plan depends, however, on fast breeders being around to do the job, which seems less and less likely. Mr Collier is still hoping that the nuclear chairman's offer to take over Dounreay will keep the reactor alive for three years after 1994, an extension made possible by the donation of fast reactor fuel from the Germans, who several years ago decided against completing their own breeders.

One advantage of the offer, he says, is that it will delay having to spend money decommissioning Dounreay. Dounreay has a capacity of 250 megawatts and, unlike Superphénix, has been reliable, so keeping it open would also provide electricity, although not at an economic price compared with local hydro stations.

Scientists now fear that the blue devices that kill insects could throw fragments into food and allergenic particles into the air

I say, there's a zapped bug in my soup

Electronic fly killers, commonly known as bug busters or bug zappers, may be causing more ill health than the creatures they are intended to remove. Scientists studying the devices, which lure insects inside with ultra-violet light and electrocute them on a charged metal grid, claim they explode flies and moths so that fragments of dismembered insects scatter on to surfaces below.

The machines are becoming increasingly popular in restaurants and places where food is prepared or processed, so jokes about flies in soup may have to be refined.

Some scientists are worried less about the fragments of insect than about what is claimed to be a sharp rise in microscopic insect particles of 0.3 to 10 micrometres also generated by the devices. Other research indicates these are potent allergens capable of triggering respiratory problems.

Dr Alberto Broce, an insect scientist at Kansas State University, who has been studying the machines, says: "I am an entomologist. I do not think the leg of a fly or moth in a salad is going to kill you. Heck that is protein, and there are many people all over the world that eat insects."

"But my research has looked at the tiny particles that are known to be allergenic. They can remain in the air for up to three days."

Dr Broce has also carried out x-ray analysis of the particles. This

indicated that many were contaminated with traces of zinc, iron, aluminium and other metals. "We suspect that some particles contain metals that have come from the electronic grids. I will leave it to somebody else to decide what this means, healthwise," Dr Broce says.

Unlike the UK authorities, the US Food and Drug Administration has implemented laws regulating the use and siting of such machines in sensitive, food-related areas.

Electrocutors must be sited up to 5ft away from such areas. An alternative machine made by S.C. Johnson is exempt from these rules, the company claims.

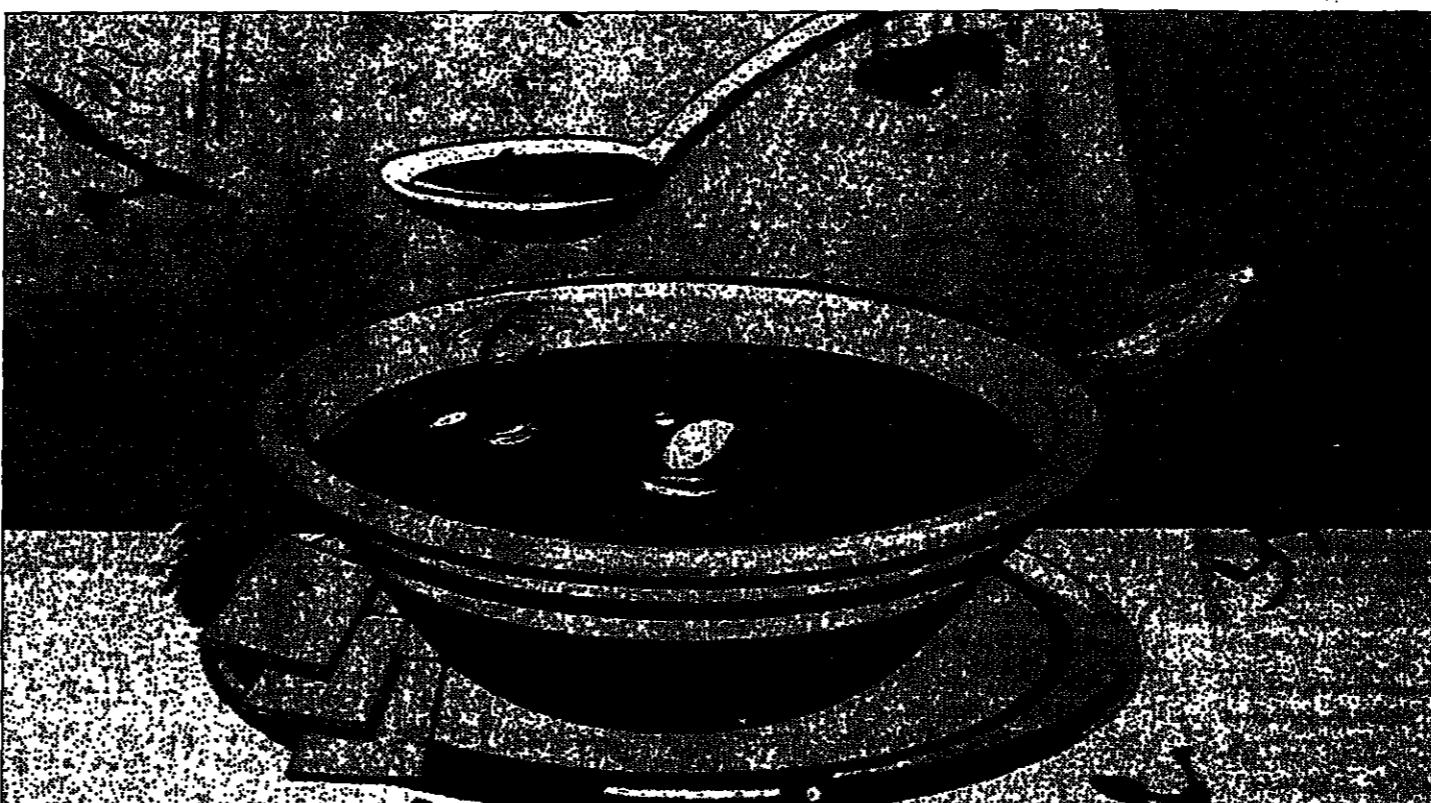
This machine attracts and collects dead flies and moths in the same way. However, instead of electrocuting them, it generates a pulsed radio wave, which, the company claims, scrambles a fly or moth's nervous system, causing the insect to fly downwards on to the sticky paper.

Research carried out at the manufacturer's laboratories in Racine, Wisconsin, indicates that rival machines produce 10 to 500 times more particles than Johnson's.

The company claims that its machine generates no more insect particles than would naturally be produced by insects flying in a room or around a light bulb.

The research is to be published in the *International Journal of Environmental Health Research* later this year.

Dr Michael Jackson, the head of



Beating the bug: above, one manufacturer's comment on how bits of insects can end up in food from a fly-zapper shown, below, in action

the environmental health division at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, and one of the editors, says he and his fellow scientists realised that they may have been seen to be promoting the Johnson product.

He says, however, that, in common with any scientific journal, the company's paper had been referred by independent researchers before being approved for publication.

Johnson's claims have angered British makers and suppliers of conventional electrocutors, who argue that the company's evidence is riddled with commercial bias. They deny that the Johnson machine is exempt from US Food and Drug Administration rules.

Peter Bateman, of Rentokil, in

East Grinstead, West Sussex, says: "In 25 years' experience as a leading provider of electronic fly killers, we have never encountered any evidence of fly disintegration such that they contaminate the environment. On the contrary, they tend to become stuck to the bars of the grid. The devices stun rather than explode the flies."

Martin Pill, of the Institution of Environmental Health Officers in London, says he is aware that concerns have been raised over the devices. "What we need is some independent research," he says.

Dr Jackson says he intends to carry out such research soon.

NICK NUTTALL

All pumped up

A new non-invasive therapy could reduce the need for heart surgery

therapy pioneered by medical researchers at SUNY.

If its early promise is confirmed, this treatment will offer a new lease of life to thousands of victims of chronic heart disease — especially those for whom age or poor health means that major surgery is too dangerous. The first clinical trials of EEC have proved such a success that the technique is being heralded as a revolutionary breakthrough in cardiology.

Over a period of two years, 18 patients with chronic chest pain were treated with EEC at SUNY. All 18 had either failed to benefit from conventional treatment, or were unable to risk it, yet two-thirds lost their chest pain completely and the other third enjoyed some improvement in their condition.

With EEC, inflatable belts are strapped around the patient's calves, thighs and buttocks for one hour each day over a period of seven weeks. While the patient rests on a specially constructed bed, which houses the air pumps, the belts inflate and relax rhythmically in step with the patient's heartbeat. The effect is to squeeze blood painlessly from the patient's legs and hips into his chest between heart contractions.

Blood pressure sensors show what a dramatic improvement in circulation is possible. Without EEC treatment, a typical patient's reveal a high systolic pressure followed by a negligible diastolic pressure. This demonstrates that the heart is having to pump hard to push blood out through diseased arteries and that the return flow, as the heart dilates, is restricted.

During EEC treatment, however, systolic blood pressure is reduced and diastolic pressure, helped by the applied counterpulsation, is significantly increased — demonstrating easier circulation.

A crude version of EEC was developed by US doctors 30 years ago, but was abandoned in favour of more technologically advanced treatment methods. The current work began at SUNY in 1986. After the initial success, larger trials are now being organised.

MICK HURRELL



Under pressure: the non-operative technique for heart disease

Shades of monotony

Hay meadows cannot survive fertiliser use, at any level, a study shows

have only 29 flowering plants. "The fertilisers have totally transformed the landscape," Mr Tallowin said. "In the past, wild flowers used to cover 30 per cent of the moor, with grass accounting for only 20 per cent. But in fertilised areas, that pattern is reversed."

"The moor is losing its kaleidoscope of colour and is becoming a monotonous shade of green, particularly as one grass species, Yorkshire fog, is spreading over 60 per cent of the fertilised land area."

Stemming the green tide requires more action than just a fertiliser ban. Wild flowers have to be reintroduced to traditional habitats and the land must be properly managed to ensure its colonisation

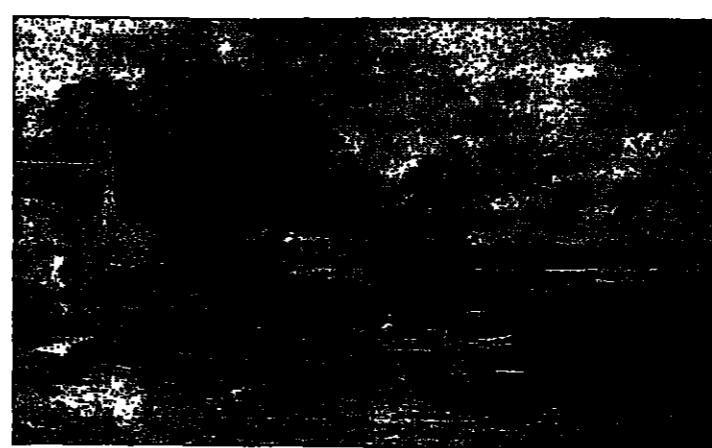
by these plants rather than by weeds such as docks and thistle.

But most important of all, conservation must be an economically viable option for farmers. Fertilised land can yield about 11 tons of hay per hectare per year and can be made even more competitive by releasing beef cattle to graze on the fertiliser-rich stubble after the hay is cut. Each animal can increase its weight by more than a kilogram a day in this way.

In contrast, only about £150 worth of hay can be harvested per hectare from wild flower meadows. And unless the land is in a designated environmentally sensitive area, where compensation of up to £350 is forthcoming for species protection, landowners find that they cannot afford to conserve the flowers.

Mr Tallowin is convinced that, until the situation changes, the future looks bleak for Britain's remaining hay meadows.

IOLA SMITH



The Hay Wain: two centuries on, hay meadows are relatively rare

UPDATE

Modified plants

A BRITISH company has announced a method for producing animal vaccines in plants. The Agricultural Genetics Company, based in Cambridge Science Park, developed the technique in conjunction with Professor Jack Johnson, of Purdue University, Indiana, and Dr George Lomonosoff, of the John Innes Institute, Norwich.

Using genetic engineering techniques, the scientists have been able to modify the cowpea mosaic virus so that it contains the parts of animal viruses that are recognised by the immune system. These hybrid viruses can be grown in cowpea plants and harvested from the plants after just 14 days.

The first vaccine to be produced is one against foot and mouth disease. A single cowpea leaf, the company estimates, would be sufficient to produce enough hybrid virus for 200 doses of vaccine.

Ozone figures

THE Japanese Environment Agency has reported that the depletion of the Earth's ozone layer over the South Pole was the largest ever last year. Tetsushi Sato, of the agency, said the report was based on data obtained from scientists at Antarctic observation bases of Japan, Britain, New Zealand and the United States. The report said the ozone hole over the South Pole — an area with subnormal amounts of ozone — was estimated at 6.76 million square miles at its largest last year, an increase by a factor of 13 in the past decade.

Spy talks

FRANCE, Spain and Italy have opened talks on launching a second spy satellite to join the Helios reconnaissance satellite they will launch in 1994, the Paris newspaper *Le Monde* has reported.

Wine culture

RESEARCHERS in Denmark believe that they have discovered a way to control malolactic fermentation in wine, the process that makes the difference between a palatable wine and a good one. Working with colleagues in France, Italy and Portugal, they have produced strains of lactic acid bacteria that can be injected directly into wine.

At present, many wine-makers simply cross their fingers and hope that natural populations of the bacteria will grow in sufficient numbers to complete the process naturally. There are commercial cultures available, but they are ineffective and time-consuming. The European team, working on an EC-funded programme, hopes it will have perfected the strains by March next year.

Open door

A DOOR that links St John's and Trinity Colleges in Cambridge will be opened tomorrow for the first time since the second world war. It is part of a joint celebration to mark the inauguration of the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences. Guests will go from a reception at St John's through the door to dine at Trinity. The two colleges have collaborated in founding the institute, which aims to bring together scientists and mathematicians from all over the world to collaborate on current problems in mathematics.

Bagged water

ALASKA wants to export water to southern California in giant nylon bags towed by ships down the Pacific coast. Alaska has plenty of water and wants to profit by putting it in bags 1,000ft long by 250ft wide and capable of storing 72 million gallons. Seafarers say the plan may not work, with rough seas and floating timber posing a threat to the bags. The David, the state's water chief, is unconcerned; with 40 per cent of the nation's fresh water, Alaska has plenty to spare.

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Hours subject to the ILOA Code of Conduct for Outplacement Consultancies

LIFE & TIMES THURSDAY JULY 2 1992

Strategic Development Manager

West Midlands c.£40,000 + Car

Our client is a recognised leader in its sectors of the IT Services market. Operationally autonomous from its blue chip US multi-national parent, it has the financial backing to implement plans to grow several orders of magnitude within Europe.

The Board recognises the importance of continually improving overall strategic planning performance and, in order to achieve this in the next phase of growth, it is looking to appoint a Strategic Development Manager to catalyse this process.

The key task of the successful candidate in this influential role will be to work with senior corporate and business unit management to support the strategic development of the company at all levels.

The successful candidate is likely to be 27-35 with a minimum of three years background in strategic development either in a multi-national group or consultancy environment. Success in this role will depend on the ability to apply practical strategic planning techniques to solve complex problems and the personal confidence, presence and tact necessary to work with business people at a very senior level. An MBA and another European language would be an advantage.

To apply, please send a detailed CV to Ian Tomlinson, Douglas Llambias Associates, 410 Strand, London WC2R 0NS, quoting reference ST28692/A.

EDINBURGH 031-255 7744
Glasgow 041-256 5101
LONDON 071-836 9901
MANCHESTER 061-236 1555

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVES



Far East, Germany, Pan European Group
Based London £ negotiable

Established in 1987, MTV Europe is the fastest growing cable and satellite station in Europe and is broadcast to over 36 million homes in 27 countries.

Due to our tremendous growth, vacancies have now arisen for enthusiastic and highly motivated Executives to join our Sales teams responsible for markets in the Far East, Germany and other major European territories.

Specifically targeting youth oriented and lifestyle products in the 16-34 year old market. The Executives will develop and service the existing client base and bring new advertisers to the Channel.

Candidates should be of graduate calibre, aged between 25-30 with strong communication and negotiation skills and should ideally possess a minimum of 3 years experience in sales, preferably gained in the media environment.

The position in the Far East demands fluency in Japanese and English. All other positions require fluency in German and at least two other European languages.

Please apply, sending a comprehensive C.V. to:

Leona Scott,
Director of Human Resources and Administration,
MTV Europe, Centro House,
20-23 Mandela Street, London NW1 0DU.

Technical Director

Chemical Products

c.£45,000 + Car + Benefits North West

Our client is an important U.K. based group, manufacturing and marketing a wide variety of fast moving high profile consumer and industrial products for several market sectors necessitating a diverse range of technology and packaging facilities. The group has an enviable reputation for phenomenal growth with all its Divisions.

The Technical Director will control a small talented team responsible for all group R & D activities together with process development, quality assurance and professional and regulatory services.

Candidates for this important post should be aged 35 to 45 and possess an honours degree and considerable over many years R & D experience at a senior level in a recognised manufacturer of high volume chemical preparations perhaps with a bias at some stage towards polymer technology, i.e. in paints or adhesives. Personal traits should include good organisational and communicative skills but above all, strong leadership qualities. A highly attractive salary, bonus potential and benefits package is on offer including prestige car, free health care for self and family, pension and life assurance schemes.

Applicants should write in confidence giving brief career, academic and personal details to Ref. MB262.

Austin Knight Ltd.
Ship Canal House, 98 King Street, Manchester M2 4WD
Replies will be forwarded to our client unopened

ATCOs

Airwork Limited is seeking qualified Air Traffic Controllers to work at various locations throughout the U.K.

Candidates should hold current ratings in at least three of the following: ADC, APP, APR and Area RA(A). A PAR rating would be advantageous.

The remuneration package is competitive and includes contributory pension and loss of licence or permanent health insurance. Additionally, we can offer a pleasant working environment with a minimum of unsocial hours.

Please apply in writing, quoting ref 048, to the Recruitment Manager, Airwork Limited, FREEPOST, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 6EB or telephone (0202) 572271 ext 2294 for an application form.

Airwork

Our European expansion began with France two weeks ago and will continue with launches in Germany, Italy, Spain and the Nordic regions. To establish and drive the business throughout Europe we now need several high calibre Business Development Managers and Marketeers.

For the positions listed below fluency in more than one European language is essential. Candidates must be prepared to present in their 2nd language. Our immediate language preferences are German, Spanish and Italian.

European Business Development Managers

Substantial negotiable salary

Second language fluency essential

Highly entrepreneurial, your limitless energy and motivation will be stretched to the full. These positions will only suit individuals who thrive on the challenge and excitement of a new venture and have a high degree of mobility. You should have practical business skills gained through a senior sales or marketing position.

Those most likely to succeed must be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of channel marketing strategy for a high volume product and have the drive and confidence to set up and run a business under minimal supervision.

Positions are UK based. Ref: BDM/1

Marketing Professionals

£25k - £40k package

Young Marketeers in their mid to late 20's will find exceptional scope for individual development and rapid promotion. You will be able to utilise fully your foreign language skills and learn rapidly the business operations of European countries. As you will be supporting the Business Development Managers in every way (from PR and advertising campaigns to dealer presentations)

you will need a sales and marketing background. If you possess boundless enthusiasm, common sense and an ambitious streak to your nature, then we would like to talk to you - but please don't call if you can't speak a European language fluently in addition to English.

Positions are UK based with some opportunity for European travel. Ref: MP/1

To apply please contact our advising consultant
Martyn Thornton at-
Hayward Associates, Vigilant House,
120 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1JZ.
Tel: 071 976 6455. Fax: 071 976 6334.

HAYWARD & ASSOCIATES

take your mind for a run into europe

No doubt, you're already aware of the stir we've created in the PC market place. Launched only 3 weeks ago Ambra Personal Computers have taken the industry by storm and are poised to take a substantial market share from their competitors throughout Europe.



Managing Director

Colour management systems

Datacolor International dominates the market for computer-controlled colour management systems, which are used increasingly in the textile, paint, ink, plastics and printing industries.

The Managing Director of the company's 40-strong UK sales subsidiary, based in Altrincham, now seeks a successor able to maintain its profitable growth in rapidly evolving markets.

Your record of profit-responsible general management in a service-oriented business should be backed by a proven ability to market technically complex products. You will also need strong commercial flair, well honed man-management skills and the drive and determination to grow the business. A thorough knowledge of one of the key industries supplied and serviced by the company - notably paints or inks - would be a distinct recommendation.

The position offers a competitive salary plus good bonus potential and a range of benefits including an executive car.

Please write to the company's adviser: Christopher Carnaghan, 13 West Farm Avenue, Ashhead, Surrey KT21 2LD.

Barbican Centre

Commercial Director

The Barbican Centre is the largest complex of its kind in Western Europe, providing a base for the Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Symphony Orchestra. The complex incorporates the concert hall, theatres, cinemas, art galleries, a library, conference centre, trade exhibition halls, function rooms and restaurants.

The Commercial Director will be a member of the top management team with a brief to develop the Centre's business strategy to generate commercial income and increase visitor numbers with a staff of twelve people.

Candidates should be aged 38 to 50 and be able to demonstrate a successful sales and marketing background, ideally in the conference, exhibition or leisure sector. This will include hands on experience of leading a sales and marketing team, and managing a budget. A lively interest in the arts would be a definite advantage.

A competitive salary will be offered to reflect the importance of the role.

Applicants are invited to send a detailed CV to: Personnel Manager, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS, by 10 July 1992.

SERVING THE SQUARE MILE



MARKETING MANAGER

International Responsibility for the World's Leading Malt Whisky

William Grant & Sons is the leading independent Scotch Whisky distiller. It created the market for Single Malt with Glenfiddich, which has grown into a major international brand, doubling its volume in the last decade. Its William Grant's blend has grown faster than any other Scotch Whisky in the last five years. This kind of success has derived from a combination of strategic focus, long term commitment to quality and to brand building, and an innovative approach to Sales and Marketing.

Responsibility for Glenfiddich is a pivotal marketing role in the Company. The worldwide strategy that you will develop and drive is

astonishingly bold - very considerable demands will be made both on your intellectual resources and on your ability to communicate and persuade. Success is likely to open early and rapid career development opportunities.

You are probably in your late 20s/early 30s, classically FMCG trained and, ideally, have experience of the drinks market. You must be capable of understanding the complex psychographics of image-led brands.

An international perspective is equally important. Innovative, committed to excellence, intelligent, unstoppable enthusiasm and energy, are some of the other appropriate attributes.



Please send a detailed CV, including contact telephone numbers, to our consultant, Nigel Rugman at Rugman & Partners Limited, 23 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4JH. Tel: 071 930 3822, Fax: 071 925 2091

SALES MANAGERS and FIELD SALES MANAGERS (Housebuilding)

An excellent opportunity to join a highly successful, long established housebuilder where the emphasis is on volume sales.

The operational areas are within Greater London and the South East. Experience is essential as are the qualities of resilience, the ability to cope in a high pressure environment and a thorough background in people management.

Salaries will be by negotiation and in balance with your input and volume responsibilities. The usual benefits of a large company are offered to include a company car, etc.

Please apply in writing, including a full c.v. and your guide to what you can personally offer the business, to Mrs. J. Sutton at the address below:



THE HOUSEBUILDERS MARKETING COMPANY
THE MALT HOUSE 60 EAST ST HELENS STREET
ABINGDON OXON OX14 5EB

DIRECTORS/MANAGERS

UNEMPLOYED: EX. PAT: CAREER RUT: RECESSION HIT

You need a new position - With hundreds of applicants applying for each advertised position, how can an individual compete in the marketplace?

Fletcher Hunt are not an agency, but a specialist team established to help individuals seeking fast career change to find the right position quickly and professionally, normally within the unadvertised market.

Consultancy is sometimes available to our unemployed clients.

Phone Richard Holman on 071-438 8886

London 071-438 8885, Rugby 079-546537

North West 084-425262, Dublin 051 282

Norwich 0803-230054, Newcastle 091-244 1010

Yorkshire 0422 885533, Belfast 0272 328254

59 Devonshire Street, London W1N 1LT

CAREER CONSULTANTS

Scotland 073-762388

Southland 070-441207

Hong Kong 0272 328254

This exciting high profile role will provide excellent opportunities for personal growth, to make a significant contribution to the economy of Somerset and to lead the senior management team of this thriving and innovative TEC.

Please apply in writing with a full c.v. to:

M.E. Flanagan, Managing Director, Shannon Consulting Group, 3 Maer Road, Exmouth EX8 2DA



071-481 4481

EXECUTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

LIFE & TIMES THURSDAY JULY 2 1992

FAX 071-782 7826

Business Development Manager

International Business Travel

An unusual opportunity with general management potential

London

This fast-growing, international group is an acknowledged market leader in the corporate billing and information services sector. Its continuing success is founded on a highly innovative approach to developing premium quality database products, responsive and flexible service to its clients and, most significantly, the high calibre of its management team.

Following a recent strategic review, the group has decided to launch a new product with major growth potential, which will break entirely new ground in the business travel sector.

The Business Development Manager's brief will be to develop the new product in detail, ensure optimum market positioning and launch it to the group's extensive client base. A key responsibility will be to leverage the group's substantial purchasing power, negotiating major discount agreements with airlines, hotels and car rental firms. Success in the role will lead

c. £40,000 + Excellent Package to general management responsibility for this major venture.

Educated to degree level and probably aged in their early to mid 30s, candidates should have an outstanding track record in the international business travel industry. We will also be looking for exceptional personal attributes, including a keen intellect; first-rate communication skills; resourcefulness; and the vision, energy and commitment to turn concept into reality. Language skills and experience of working overseas would be advantageous.

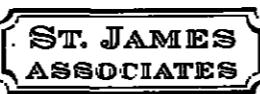
The remuneration package fully reflects the importance of the role to our client and includes a performance-related bonus scheme, eligibility for share options, executive car, non-contributory pension and private health care.

Interested applicants should write, enclosing a detailed CV, to Roger Howell at the address below, quoting reference number 121.

MANAGEMENT SELECTION

32 OLD BURLINGTON STREET, LONDON W1X 1LB FAX: 071-287 2821. TELEPHONE: 071-287 2820.

A GKR Group Company

Property Director
Retail

South East

This fully quoted retail group is a niche market player operating from 100 high street sites throughout Southern England. Following a successful restructuring, the organisation is well placed to achieve profitable growth through product and price flexibility and operating cost efficiency.

A current development programme, including store openings, refurbishments and new retailing concepts, will place increasing demands on the property function. An experienced property professional is required to ensure that this activity is accomplished efficiently and to manage, develop and motivate the property team within the main operating company.

Key responsibilities will be:

- ensuring that store development, refurbishment and maintenance programmes are delivered on time and within budget;



MANAGEMENT SELECTION

32 OLD BURLINGTON STREET, LONDON W1X 1LB FAX: 071-287 2821. TELEPHONE: 071-287 2820.

A GKR Group Company

c. £50,000 + Attractive Benefits

- negotiating favourable freehold, leasehold and sub-lease terms with principals, agents and professional advisors;
- managing an efficient and responsive tendering process for development and maintenance work through a localised network of preferred suppliers.

Probably aged 32-40, the preferred candidate will be an enthusiastic and resourceful team player with at least ten years' property management experience within a multi-site retail environment. Excellent interpersonal skills and proven managerial ability, together with sound commercial acumen, are considered essential.

The attractive benefits package will include profit-share, stock options, executive car and other benefits.

Interested applicants should write, enclosing a detailed CV, to Roger Howell at the address below, quoting reference number 122.

A GKR Group Company

Account Management – OEM's

Market leading software packages

Microsoft® is the world's most influential software organisation. With products that span the Applications, Systems and Networking software arenas, Microsoft is universally recognised as shaping the PC

environment through such innovative developments as Windows. The UK operation based in Berkshire is a dynamic, fast-moving environment which acts as a focus for all our sales and marketing activities. We market our software products to equally innovative OEM's and through PC dealers who both share our professional integrity and our vision of 'a PC on every desk and in every home running Microsoft Software'.

Your experience should demonstrate a proven track record in high level negotiation. Some exposure to Microsoft products would be an advantage. You are likely to be aged in your mid 20's to mid 30's and be qualified to a minimum of HND level, preferably in a technical or scientific discipline.

Although the positions carry different levels of responsibility (and demand varying experience), the objectives are very much the same. You will be expected to forge effective relationships with key decision makers to enable you to understand the client culture and exploit new business advantages through existing opportunities, in addition to gaining an understanding of the market dynamics of the customer's marketplace. Considerable interfacing with the UK and US operations is key to successful OEM account management with Microsoft.

Your experience should demonstrate a proven track record in high level negotiation. Some exposure to Microsoft products would be an advantage. You are likely to be aged in your mid 20's to mid 30's and be qualified to a minimum of HND level, preferably in a technical or scientific discipline.

As a company that continually leads rather than follows, these positions offer rapid personal development and career progression.

A highly attractive package includes a high basic salary and excellent benefits.

Post or fax your cv, attaching details of your current salary and quoting the appropriate reference number to Mike Milner or Mandy Graham our Advising Consultants, at MJM Recruitment Ltd., Little Orchard House, Main Street, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire WR11 5LD. Fax No: (0789) 490646.

Alternatively, contact them today between 11am and 6pm or during normal working hours on (0789) 772127.

All agencies are invited to liaise with MJM Recruitment regarding suitable candidates.

Microsoft

Commercial Manager

Kent

Our client is a highly successful supplier of fresh produce to the retail and market sectors. With a turnover in the region of £150m their growth rate continues to expand in a difficult economic climate. As a group they pride themselves on the provision of quality products and a committed level of service. As the demands of retailers and consumers alike have risen, so have the standards to which this company operates. With an investment programme in technology, product development and sourcing they ensure their leadership in this competitive marketplace.

Their strong working relationships with the major multiples have ensured significant market share providing them with the ability to achieve major new market objectives.

Their investment programme also extends to its people and it is their policy to develop specialists who can focus on individual product categories, pioneering these new market opportunities. It is for this reason they now wish to add to their existing team.



MICHAEL PAGE MARKETING

Specialist Recruitment Consultants

London Windsor Birmingham & Leeds

c. £35,000 + Car

The main objective of the role will be to manage the profitable growth of a product business. As the Commercial Manager, your focus will be on account management and supplier relations, in addition to the co-ordination of all sales and marketing planning.

The role will afford a high level of autonomy and will include both strategic and tactical issues. You will be held accountable for the construction and execution of detailed business plans.

The ideal candidate will be aged 25-30 and able to demonstrate a successful track record in retail buying or product sales and marketing. Previous direct contact with the major multiples and strong negotiation skills are essential. A language would be an advantage as the role will encompass international liaison. This is a dynamic and forward thinking company with demanding standards and high rewards.

Interested applicants should write to Jane Naylor, The Executive Division, Michael Page Marketing, Windsor Bridge House, 1 Brocas Street, Eton, Berks SL4 6BW. Tel: 0753 840858.

EUROPEAN SALES PROFESSIONALS

Electronic Financial Information Systems

Thomson Financial Services is a rapidly growing provider of specialist electronic information systems and services for the financial community.

Continuing expansion has created a number of opportunities for top class sales professionals to join this entrepreneurial company based in London.

Aged between 26 and 33, successful candidates will have proven track record in selling to either front or back office operations. Language abilities (minimum French and German) and a willingness to travel are essential. Salary packages will be highly competitive.

Please send full C.V. and salary details in writing to:

Personnel Department
7th Floor,
11 New Fetter Lane,
London,
EC4A 1JN.

Thomson
Financial
Services

RIGBY METAL COMPONENTS

GENERAL SALES MANAGER

RIGBY METAL COMPONENTS LIMITED, located in Yorkshire, is a leading designer and manufacturer of metal components for industry, such as bearings, bushings and structural parts, using cost effective powder metallurgy processes.

Already well established in the UK market, the company is increasingly developing its business interests in the Continental European marketplace.

Reporting to the Managing Director, the General Sales Manager will be part of a small executive management team, and as such will be expected to play an important part in the management and development of the Company to fulfil its growth objectives within the EEC.

The successful applicant will have a background in Sales and Marketing, preferably in engineering components, and ideally be aged mid 30s to mid 40s. Fluency in a major European language is required, as is a record of success, particularly in generating new business. A high degree of determination and drive, together with inter-personal skills are essential.

Salary and benefits are first class, and include a pension scheme, car and medical cover.

The position could carry Board potential.

Please write enclosing a full CV to:

The Personnel Manager, Rigby Metal Components Limited, Rawfolds, Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire BD19 5LU.

Product & Package Development Managers



Procter & Gamble (Health & Beauty Care) Limited develops and markets many of the best known and successful health and personal care products available such as Vidal Sassoon hair care products, Oil of Ulay skin care products and Vicks cold care products.

The Product Development Department for the Middle East, North Africa, Turkey & Greece is currently seeking outstanding graduates to develop products and packages to support our rapidly expanding business in the above markets.

The positions are based at Egham but involve considerable travel to the above countries.

Applicants should have at least a BSc (Hons) degree in a science field, preferably chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, biology or chemistry and 0-3 years relevant experience. Excellent communication, inter-personal and leadership skills are required for these

Procter & Gamble

HEALTH & BEAUTY CARE EUROPE

challenging positions. Knowledge of foreign languages (especially Arabic or Turkish) would be an additional asset.

What do we offer you? An attractive salary and benefits package. A stimulating and progressive career which will develop your intellectual and personal capabilities to the fullest. Our "on-the-job" training scheme is personally tailored. You will have early and increasing responsibility and will be working in a company which promotes on merit and exclusively from within the organisation.

Please forward your C.V. or contact for an application form. Please indicate which position you're applying for (Product or Package Development Manager). Ms. R. Scrivens, Middle East Product Development Department, PROCTER & GAMBLE (HBBC) Ltd., Rusham Park, Whitehall Lane, Egham, Surrey TW20 9NW. Tel: (0784) 474890.

As the facilities and services management division of one of the UK's leading support of specialist information systems and services for the financial community.

COMMERCIAL BASIC + BONUS + CAR SOUTH EAST

Your experience in facilities management coupled with business development skills will enable you to convert sales leads and maintain a high level of multi-service facilities management contracts.

REGIONAL FACILITIES MANAGER

You will control the day to day operations of a multi site contract through a team of facilities managers. Essential to the role are management skills and strong budget control. You must have a thorough understanding of Computers, COSS-H and EEC regulations. Basic skills in a substantial basic and bonus potential company car, pension and healthcare plan.

To apply, send your CV to: Angela Harwood, HMC5, Headstone Services, 131 High Street, West Street, Buntingford, Herts, SG9 9ST or Telephone 0723 599279.

SENIOR EXECUTIVES

The Pathfinder Partnership are experts at marketing top level executives, particularly in the unadvertised job market. For an informal discussion call us today.

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HIGH WYCOMBE - 0494 452791
178 Great Portland Street
LONDON W1B 6DZ
CARFEE ADVISORY CONSULTANTS



Morgan

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EXECUTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

FAX 071-782 7826

MSL International

CONSULTANTS IN SEARCH AND SELECTION

MSL Group Limited, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL Telephone: 071-487 5000
Birmingham 021-454 8884 • Bristol 0272-76517 • Glasgow 041-248 7700 • Leeds 0532-454757 • Manchester 061-834 2425
Newcastle 091-261 5333 • Nottingham 0602-480400 • All posts are open to men and women**Business Development Manager**

SAUDI ARABIA : Stg & Top Level (tax free)

The Almarai Group of companies based in Riyadh is the largest vertically integrated dairy operation in the world, with sales in excess of \$300m and a headcount of over 2200 people. Owned by major international interests, the Company farms, processes and distributes a wide range of food products for consumption in Saudi Arabia and its neighbouring Gulf Co-operation Council States.

Almarai wishes to recruit a Business Development Manager who will be accountable for identifying and exploiting innovative opportunities for achieving the Company's strategic goals in business/profits growth through market/product development, both organically and by acquisition/joint venture initiatives.

Candidates, over 35 and graduates in a business discipline, should have senior management experience of marketing/commercial development functions in large scale and successful fmfg environments, preferably but not exclusively, in the dairy/food sectors.

A highly attractive compensation and benefits package is offered, including a top level salary paid free of tax, two years' renewable contract with term-end gratuity, subsidised school fees and Company-provided car, family accommodation, healthcare and air-travel to Europe.

Please write, in confidence, to Barry Herriot, Ref: ST/BDM/692, MSL International, Newmount House, 22/24 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2.

MSL International
CONSULTANTS IN SEARCH AND SELECTION

Sales Director - Designate

WEST YORKSHIRE : Attractive Package + Car

Our client is part of a recognised world leader in its specialist non-food, fmfg field. Within its chosen UK market sector the company has secured brand leadership and laid challenging objectives for future growth.

The initiation of new brand strategies and associated sales and marketing programmes has resulted in a rare opportunity for a young and successful sales management professional with the ambition and potential to progress further.

Reporting to the Managing Director you will have full responsibility for recommending, implementing and assessing comprehensive sales programmes which will achieve the Company's ambitious business objectives.

You should be a graduate, in your 30s, with a proven record of fmfg sales achievement and a fast-track career to date. You must have achieved above average success in both Field Sales and National Account management with a blue-chip

company. Alternatively you have developed a successful career either selling or controlling products with a well respected food retailer.

The company is committed to succession planning and management development. This appointment is an essential part of the future planning for the senior management team.

The position offers a first class package including an attractive salary, bonus, executive car, non-contributory pension, life assurance, long term sickness protection, and free private health insurance, with the added benefit of being located in an exceptionally attractive working environment.

Please write in confidence, enclosing full career and salary details, stating how you meet the above requirements, to Paul Banfield, Ref: 23094, MSL Group Limited, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL.

MSL International
CONSULTANTS IN SEARCH AND SELECTION

General Sales Manager

High quality 'Business to Business' products

EAST MIDLANDS : c £35,000+ Package with Car

Our client, a profitable and expanding division of a major PLC is seeking to strengthen its senior management team by appointing a high calibre General Sales Manager for one of its key business areas.

Likely to be aged between 28 - 45, you will possess a first class track record of personal and managerial achievement in the sale of industrial products or services in competitive market places to high profile business customers.

Knowledge of the print and packaging industry would be advantageous but more important is having a strong and positive approach to leadership, and the drive and enthusiasm that

energises others to achieve. You'll need an analytical approach to business planning with the strategic vision and commercial acumen to both maximise existing business and successfully target new areas for profitable growth.

Given success, future prospects are excellent, and the competitive benefits package includes a profit related bonus, choice of pension scheme, quality car, and relocation assistance if required.

To apply, please write in confidence, enclosing full c.v. to Tim Roffe, Ref: 37118, MSL Group Limited, Clinton House, 2-4 Clinton Terrace, Derby Road, Nottingham, NG7 1LY. Tel. (0602) 480400. Fax. (0602) 480490.

MSL International
CONSULTANTS IN SEARCH AND SELECTION

Operations Manager

Metal Refining

N W KENT : c £30,000+ Car + Benefits

Britannia Refined Metals Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of MIM Holdings (Australia), is engaged in the smelting and refining of non-ferrous metals from both primary and secondary sources. The primary refinery is the largest in Europe and the secondary operation is the most modern in the industry.

Reporting to the Executive Manager, you will be responsible for the secondary refinery production, engineering and technical support. It is anticipated that over the next year the recently commissioned plant will process reclaimed scrap material to produce 40,000 tonnes of refined lead and battery alloys.

This is a key, high profile appointment. The job holder will be required to ensure that production targets are achieved to commercial deadlines and within budgeted costs. Engineering, safety, hygiene and environmental standards are paramount and finished products are produced to BS5750.

The refinery operates on a continuous basis with up to 80 staff

employed on both days and shiftwork. During the next year turnover is expected to be in excess of £15m and additional process investment is likely to exceed £1m.

The ideal candidate, probably aged 35 to 45 years, will have a minimum of 8 years' production experience with at least 5 years in a front line management/supervisory position. You should be a graduate in either chemical engineering or metallurgy and have a thorough understanding of computerised process control. Profit centre management, a close affinity with engineering maintenance and development together with adaptability, creativity, drive and leadership skills are essential to succeed in this position.

The company offers a first class benefits package including relocation assistance, where appropriate.

Please write in confidence, enclosing full career and salary details, stating how you meet the above requirements, to Paul Banfield, Ref: 23115, MSL Group Limited, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL.

Britannia Refined Metals Limited

Head of Compliance**International Fund Management**

London

c.£45,000 + Car + Benefits

Opportunity to manage compliance and company secretarial functions in secure, profitable and growing Investment Management Company.

THE COMPANY

Well established, successful UK subsidiary of powerful US parent. Over \$60bn of assets under management worldwide.

Strongly performing, stable and innovative. Hallmarked by professionalism and diversification of products and markets.

London is hub of global business growth.

THE POSITION

Leading an established and well maintained Compliance function in London.

Providing expert advice on UK and other international regulatory environments and emerging markets.

Totally involved in the business, in product development and providing financial reporting and management information.

QUALIFICATIONS

At least two years' experience of Compliance, gained in banking or investment management. Aged over 30 with international perspective and total familiarity with IMRO.

Experience of company secretarial work, US Securities regulations and accounting preferred.

Enjoy non-hierarchical, meritocratic environment. Excellent career development opportunities.

Candidates must be available for final interviews in New York.

Please write, enclosing full cv, Ref L2620ST
54 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6LX**N.B.S**NB SELECTION LTD - a Norman Broadbent International associated company
LONDON 071-935 6992 • BIRMINGHAM 021-233 4656 • SLOUGH 0753 819227 • BRISTOL 0272 291142
GLASGOW 041-209 4354 • ABERDEEN 0241 680080 • MANCHESTER 061-539995**Sales Director – Europe**
Integrated Banking Software

Basic salary: c.£65,000 + Car. OTE £100,000+

Location: Southern Home Counties

With a forecast revenue of US\$550 million for 1992, Systematics is one of the world's leading providers of software and processing services to the financial industry. Headquartered in the U.S.A., the company manages its European operations from a U.K. base.

Systematics has enjoyed a consistent pattern of phenomenal growth, with an increase in revenue of 48% last year alone. The company's success hinges upon its unrivalled investment in Research and Development, and its total commitment to quality and leadership in information management.

As part of a strategy of continued expansion, Systematics has created a new role for an experienced professional to spearhead sales in Europe. Responsible for a small team of highly motivated and extremely successful sales professionals, you will be expected to take a hands

on approach to increasing sales and forging the company's success in unchartered territories.

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The rewards for rising to this challenge are outstanding. If you believe you have the drive and experience to make your mark with Systematics, please forward your CV, including salary details and a daytime contact number, to John Kearney at Harvey Nash, quoting Ref: HN607.

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A salary in the region of £40k is envisaged, together with a performance related bonus scheme and attractive benefit package.

Applicants who can match the key requirements outlined for this position should send a detailed CV, together with current remuneration and a daytime contact number, in confidence, to: Fiona A. Broughton, Personnel Insight, 125 Salisbury Avenue, St. Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 4TY. Please quote ref: 207.

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Braxton Associates is a leading international strategy consulting firm, operating within Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu International, one of the world's largest professional service firms. We are looking for outstanding consultants to join our team and help build our growing European practice.

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Our package comprises a competitive salary plus bonus and excellent benefits. Based in London, there are also opportunities for travel, mainly within Europe. If you would like to apply, please send your resume and covering letter to: Ingrid Firminger, Recruitment Coordinator, Braxton Associates, 40 Long Acre, London WC2E 9RA (Tel. 071-334 0088).

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In complete confidence, please ring or write with CV to: Sue Jagger, Director, Simpson Crowden Consultants Limited, 97/99 Park Street, London W1Y 3HA. Telephone: 071-629 5909.

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Dixons Stores Group

REGIONAL BUSINESS MANAGER

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We are looking for an individual to head up a regional business centre. He or she will want to run their own business but within and with a company providing functional support. Our ideal candidate will be customer and sales orientated with good all round business understanding and capable of discriminating quality business particularly from a credit and long term view point.

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We would expect individuals currently within the leasing or financial services industry, those within suppliers of capital goods using leasing, and Sales Managers used to a supplier and ultimate consumer relationship, to apply.

We are offering a basic salary of around £40,000, fully expensed company car, pension scheme and other benefits that would be expected from a quality employer. Relocation will be provided if appropriate. Please send your application together with C.V. indicating the qualities and contribution you have for this job, your geographical mobility and a statement of your current package to: M. G. Pritchard, Group Head of Human Resources, Anglo Leasing Plc, Anglo House, 2 Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0DH.



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If you are interested in this position, please write or telephone for an application form to:

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Recruiting I.T. Professionals?

The Sunday Times
Information Technology
Recruitment Feature
on July 19th 1992.

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BPCC Ltd,
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LIFE & TIMES THURSDAY JULY 2 1992

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX 071-782 7826

The Prince of Wales's
Institute of Architecture

Central London

The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture has recently been launched with significant support from a wide range of building professionals, tradespeople and artists, as well as the general public. Its aim is both to complement existing provisions and to propose radical additions to architectural and building education, working where appropriate with other institutions in the field. The Institute will have a wide educational programme including public lectures, seminars and exhibitions.

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ST. JAMES
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Interested applicants should write, enclosing a detailed CV, to Philip Gardiner at the address below, quoting reference number 92214. References will be required.

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Simpson Crowden
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Project
Manager
Surrey
circa £35K
+ Car + Bonus

Superdrug

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THE POST OFFICE

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REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

Riding luck to the top

Some people always seem to be in the right place at the right time, Jean-Louis Barsoux reports

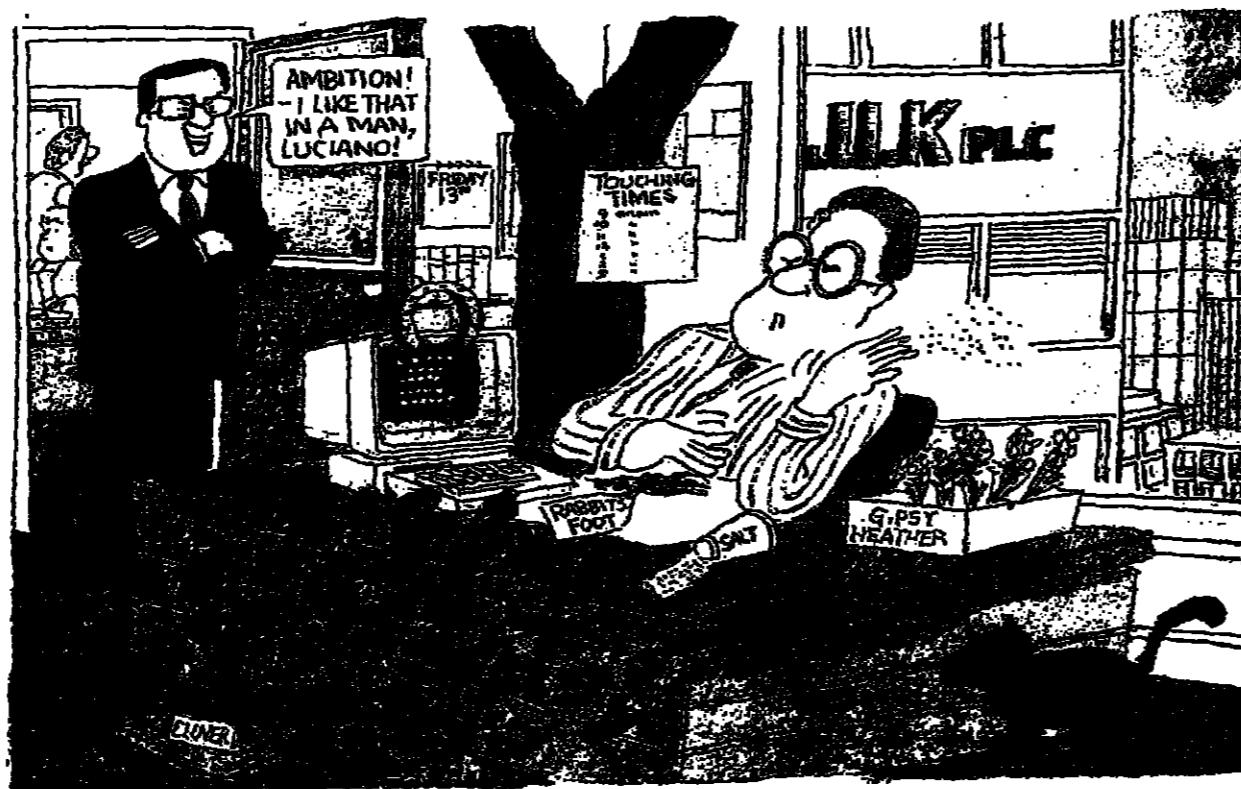
When asked what is the key to getting on in their company, managers frequently invoke luck as a significant factor. This answer has the merit of striking a universal chord. It is not just an excuse offered up by those bypassed, a way of rationalising their frustrated ambition. Even the occupants of boardrooms will occasionally concede to having been "in the right place at the right time".

However, the problem with luck as an explanation is that it is too vague to be of practical use to managers. Luck becomes a basket for all that we do not understand about the managerial advancement process. If pressed, successful managers are able to reflect upon and retrace the intervention of luck, and their reaction to it, with more precision.

Consider the testimony of Chris Haires, director of Legal & General: "I was lucky at one stage to come into a planning area which was going through a good phase. I was involved in a lot of interesting projects which led to my being offered and accepting a senior post in Australia between 1980-83. And it was luck that the offer came at a time which was convenient for the family. But you also have to be prepared to say yes."

This is a fairly typical response. Luck is seen as something that happens to all of us from time to time, and some are simply better at recognising it and acting upon it. Not everyone has the same capacity for thinking through the likely consequences of a particular opportunity — and not everyone has the boldness to take the gamble and act.

Those who "make it" may indeed have a greater feel for luck and how to harness it. But the emphasis is invariably on



reacting to luck, after the event, once it chooses to manifest itself. What about taking a proactive approach? Are there not ways of increasing one's exposure to good fortune?

That successful managers might have ways of thinking and behaving which leave them more susceptible to luck, was hinted at by Roy Aspinall, the Allied Breweries distribution director. "For individuals and companies alike, it's not about being in the right place at the right time," he said. "It's actually about being in the right place *all* the time."

Managers can bring luck upon themselves in many ways. From a behavioural point of view, they can work on their networks: they can build bridges with different cliques, inside and outside the company, as well as maintaining contact with former colleagues or bosses; they can hitch themselves to a powerful sponsor, someone who may be in a position to earmark slots for them — anything which helps them keep in touch with relevant career threads and

opportunities. Another behavioural trait which underpins success is attention to detail. It pays for managers to do their homework when attending high-profile events such as meetings or presentations. Repeated mistakes in shop window situations can wipe out years of hard work in the back-

Knowing "when it matters" requires discrimination. Managers must assess which jobs or activities are important — ones in which they can make a unique contribution. It is about knowing yourself and your limitations, and about appreciating what is important to those judging.

Quite subtle mental processes may therefore lie behind what appears to be consistent luck. For instance, interpersonal insight will help a manager to read people's motives, and to anticipate certain reactions rather than be caught flat-footed.

Successful managers will be able to see the potential in unpromising situations, including crises. They will respond opportunistically to accidents, not becoming obsessed with what has gone before or lamenting the predicament in which they find themselves. They will possess a silver lining mentality.

This resilience to setbacks is closely linked with an ability to remain alert and imaginative, and to react quickly to unpredictable events. Lucky managers are able to ad lib, to change course quickly, and to act decisively when opportunities arise — and they know when it is time to let go, if things are not working out. As Patrick Crotty, project director on the Waterloo International Project, says: "Everyone takes wrong options. The trick is to realise it early enough and to accept that you'll have to backtrack. There is no glory in stubbornness."

Managers can, by the company they keep, by the social and conceptual skills they possess, by their ability to evaluate alternatives, and by their daring and adaptability, make themselves easy targets for good fortune. Luck favours the well-prepared.

And it also transpires that many of the career twists blithely attributed to luck are, in fact, just camouflaged judgments — and it can therefore be improved. The challenge is to try to clarify what is really attributable to chance.

● The author is a research fellow at Templeton College, Oxford University.

ers are able to ad lib, to change course quickly, and to act decisively when opportunities arise — and they know when it is time to let go, if things are not working out. As Patrick Crotty, project director on the Waterloo International Project, says: "Everyone takes wrong options. The trick is to realise it early enough and to accept that you'll have to backtrack. There is no glory in stubbornness."

Managers can, by the company they keep, by the social and conceptual skills they possess, by their ability to evaluate alternatives, and by their daring and adaptability, make themselves easy targets for good fortune. Luck favours the well-prepared.

And it also transpires that many of the career twists blithely attributed to luck are, in fact, just camouflaged judgments — and it can therefore be improved. The challenge is to try to clarify what is really attributable to chance.

● The author is a research fellow at Templeton College, Oxford University.

job-getting techniques even to newly qualified people.

Advertising and accountancy are particularly well catered for, but what of the majority of professions which lack a flourishing welfare infrastructure? Solicitors are another group who face an unfamiliar insecurity, but the law does not happen to have a great tradition of offering help to its struggling members.

The redundant solicitors' helpline, run voluntarily by the Young Solicitors' Group, was established in 1989. Collette Corwin, the organiser, says the group also helps barristers and legal executives. "Until now, making people redundant isn't something solicitors have had to do, and sometimes they han-

"The book trade had once prided itself on being pretty personal, but then it was taken over by the big barons with considerable loss on the human scale," says David Whitaker, whose family firm publishes *The Bookseller*. Mr Whitaker and his associates had watched with dismay as redundancies increased from trickle to a flood. When more than 300 members of the publishing trade lost their jobs in just one black fortnight in 1991, they decided to act.

Mr Whitaker wrote an article in the magazine asking if members of the book trade could offer help to redundant colleagues. The response was swift. Companies and individuals contacted him with offers of money, time or premises, the Book Trade Benevolent Society offered funding, and lawyers and accountants offered to make their expertise freely available.

A series of articles in *The Bookseller* covered the topic of redundancy thoroughly, including Ms Hill's personal story, detailed pieces on outplacement consultancy, career and financial planning, a "good fixing guide" for employers and a detailed look at employees' legal rights. Employers circulated information about career-planning seminars to people whom they had made redundant, the jobs register was printed and circulated, and *Publishing News* offered free advertising space to job seekers or people relaunching as freelancers.

The longer the recession, the less business can afford long-term commitments to benevolent societies and helplines, but one-off voluntary initiatives such as the book trade's seem an increasingly good way of offering appropriate help. As Mr Whitaker says: "It's in everyone's interest to see that their colleagues are decently treated in difficult times."

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Application form and further details available from the Clerk to the Governors, Frederick Road, Salford, Greater Manchester M6 6PU. Telephone 061-756 6541 ext. 352. Closing date Monday July 15th 1992.

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The Museum wishes to appoint an Assistant Director to head a new Project Development Division established to provide improved planning, co-ordination and management of the Museum's project programme. This comprises major building works including a £2 million environmentally controlled collections store and the implementation of the Gallery Plan — a continuing programme of renewal and refurbishment of the permanent galleries and associated facilities. Reporting to the Director of the Museum, the person appointed will also be responsible, through the management of the Museum's Architectural Adviser and newly appointed Head of Design, for the setting and maintenance of design standards throughout the Museum. This embraces building works and the gallery programme, minor projects, signing and graphics, house style and print.

The Project Development Division will have a small permanent staff supplemented by multi-disciplinary project groups and the support of outside consultants.

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Injunction against receiver

Rosenberg and Others v Monjack and Another
Before Judge Roger Cooke
(Judgment June 25)

When a receiver appointed by a debenture holder had paid the debenture holder in full and all the remuneration due to the determination of a receiver, the payment of his own remuneration was part of the company disputed the figure claimed by the receiver for his remuneration. The company could obtain an interlocutory injunction to restrain the receiver from selling any further property pending the determination of the question of the disputed remuneration which would reveal whether there was any need to realise any further sums.

Judge Roger Cooke, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division so held in a reserved judgment granting an interlocutory injunction on a motion by Moshe Rosenberg, Chayé Esther Rosenberg, Bridgit (International) Ltd and LouNova (1982) Ltd seeking relief against Philip Monjack and Stephen Darrel Swinden, the receivers of the company plaintiffs.

Mr Peter Castle for the plaintiff companies; Mr Jonathan Arkush for the receivers.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the plaintiffs sought summary determination of an enquiry as to what the receivers of the company plaintiffs could properly charge for their remuneration and costs and for an injunction to prevent the receivers realising any further properties under their control pending that determination.

The company plaintiffs were wholly owned subsidiaries of AKLIM, a charitable company dedicated to Orthodox Jewish charities. The individual plaintiffs were husband and wife and directors of the company plaintiffs.

The plaintiffs borrowed substantial sums from First National Commercial Bank plc and a series of securities were created to secure the plaintiffs' indebtedness.

The plaintiffs were unable to keep up with their payments and the bank appointed the defendants, partners in a well known insolvency firm, as administrative receivers of the companies.

The receivers proceeded with the receivership and had managed to repay the bank in full.

In fact in doing so they had done themselves a disservice because the terms of their appointment under the debenture entitled them to be paid first. Now they only had to quantify what was properly due to them, pay themselves and bring the receivership to an end.

It was there that the conflict arose. The plaintiff said that the sums which the receivers ought properly to pay themselves were

less than those which they wished to charge and could be met out of the net liquid assets now in the receivers' hands.

The receivers disagreed. They said that they needed to raise a further £22,000 and for that purpose wished to realise one further property.

The plaintiffs sought by the motion an interlocutory enquiry as to the proper amount of remuneration needed to bring the receivership to an end and an order restraining the receivers from disposing of any further properties until that figure was ascertained.

It was an unusual case and there appeared to be no authorities directly in point. So far as necessary one had to apply first principles.

From those authorities His Lordship derived the following principles:

(a) A receiver could not in general stand in the shoes of the company.

(b) During the receivership the receiver's primary duty was to the mortgagees.

(c) If the receivership came to an end the receiver ought not to realise properties further. His authority to do so ceased, his action was tortious and he could and should be restrained.

(d) In His Lordship's judgment there was no difference between (c) and a situation where the receiver had in his hands funds that if applied would bring the receivership to an end but failed to do so:

(e) A receiver's duty to supply information and accounts arose both where the company was seriously considering redemption and where it sought to discover

certain whether the point beyond which it might be serious to continue to deal with the company's goods had been reached.

Mr Arkush argued that according to general principles and the terms of their appointment until they had ascertained the proper powers in the receivership the receivers remained in the saddle owing their primary duty to the debenture holder and the company had no cause of action to control them.

There was no authority directly in point but three authorities pointed the way pretty clearly: *In re B Johnson & Co (Builders) Ltd* [1955] Ch 634; *Smiths Ltd v Midleton* [1979] 3 All ER 842; *Gombi Holdings UK Ltd v Homax* [1986] 1 WLR 1301.

There was no authority directly in point but three authorities pointed the way pretty clearly: *In re B Johnson & Co (Builders) Ltd* [1955] Ch 634; *Smiths Ltd v Midleton* [1979] 3 All ER 842; *Gombi Holdings UK Ltd v Homax* [1986] 1 WLR 1301.

The receivers' first duty was to the secured creditors. But Mr Castle argued, the position altered when the receivership was or arguably was at an end in the sense that all liabilities were ascertained and there was sufficient money to pay them.

His Lordship adopted the statement in *Pictors on Receivers, Managers and Administrators* (second edition) (1990) pp 252-3) as a general statement on the terminal duties and procedures of receivers: that if a receiver went beyond the point when he had completed his duties he might be liable to account as a trespasser.

The unusual nature of the case was that despite the terms of the debenture, the receivers had not paid themselves first but had paid out the mortgagee.

The fact that it was their remuneration and costs that were disputed meant that it was un-

Flagstone is equipment

Knowles v Liverpool City Council

Before Lord Justice Purchas and Mrs Justice Booth
(Judgment June 29)

A flagstone was "equipment" for the purposes of section 11(1) of the Employers' Liability (Defective Equipment) Act 1969.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Liverpool City Council from a judgment of Mr Recorder Briggs on May 30, 1991, in Liverpool County Court, awarding damages of £3,092 to Mr Raymond Knowles, an employee of the plaintiffs, for personal injuries sustained in the course of his employment when he handled a flagstone which broke.

The first was that in such legislation the distinction between the equipment used by an employee "upon the employee's business" and the material upon which he used that equipment would call for the specific inclusion of the word "material" in section 11(1)(a) so as to read "a defect in equip-

ment for the purposes of the employer's business" and (b) the defect is attributable wholly or partly to the fault of a third party.

The second was the argument based upon the acknowledged purpose of the legislation which was to protect the employee from falling between two stools in cases in which the employer having exercised all proper care and relying upon a reliable supplier in fact exposed his employee to dangerous material which had become dangerous through the fault of a third party, in the present circumstances, the supplier.

In the end His Lordship had come to the conclusion that the stronger argument was that based on the broad approach to the Act bearing in mind its general purpose, rather than the argument based upon a precise if not legalistic construction of the terms of the Act itself.

Mrs Justice Booth agreed.

Solicitors: Mr W. L. Murray, Liverpool; Brian Thompson & Partners, Liverpool.

player for the purposes of the employer's business; and (b) the defect is attributable wholly or partly to the fault of a third party.

The injury shall be deemed to be also attributable on the part of the employer.

"(3) In this section ... 'equipment' includes any plant and machinery, vehicle, aircraft and clothing.

Mr William Braithwaite, QC for Liverpool City Council; Mr John Benson for Mr Knowles.

LORD JUSTICE PURCHAS said that he had to confess to having felt a great deal of hesitation in considering the relative merits of two arguments.

The first was that in such legislation the distinction between the equipment used by an employee "upon the employee's business" and the material upon which he used that equipment would call for the specific inclusion of the word "material" in section 11(1)(a) so as to read "a defect in equip-

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Mrs Justice Booth agreed.

Solicitors: Mr W. L. Murray, Liverpool; Brian Thompson & Partners, Liverpool.

Dale v British Coal Corporation (No 2)
Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Swynn
(Judgment June 18)

Where notice of the existence of a claim and sufficient particulars were given so long after the expiry of the statutory limitation period that it was virtually impossible for the defendant to investigate, exceptional circumstances would be required before the court would allow the case to proceed.

The test of whether the plaintiff acted reasonably in bringing the case late was an objective one what a reasonable man in the position of the plaintiff would have done.

A made up number could usually be said to act reasonably if it followed union advice.

All that should be done to determine the overall prospects.

The trial judge had been persuaded that the defendants were aware the plaintiff suffered from diabetes and formed the view that a claim on the basis of *Paris v Steyning Borough Council* (1951) AC 367 had a chance of success.

Mr Holland had submitted that it was not incumbent on the plaintiff to advance evidence that a prudent employer would have known of the special risk of such an injury to a diabetic plaintiff.

His Lordship was not impressed by that argument. Where it was necessary to show that a prudent

employer should have taken precautions, not taken by the defendant, those should normally be expert evidence.

In his Lordship's judgment, and sufficient particulars were given so late that was virtually impossible for the defendant to investigate, the defendant was gravely prejudiced and it would require exceptional circumstances for the court to disapply section 11 of the 1980 Act.

The judge had decided that not writing back to Mr Scargill for most people in the circumstances was on the face of it unreasonable.

But he had not been prepared to find that it was unreasonable in the plaintiff's case.

The trial judge had applied a wholly subjective test of reasonableness to the conduct of the plaintiff in bringing the case late. That was wrong.

The test was an objective one what a reasonable man in the position of the plaintiff would have done.

His Lordship was not impressed by that argument. Where it was necessary to show that a prudent

employer should have taken precautions, not taken by the defendant, those should normally be expert evidence.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the plaintiff knew at the time of the amputation of his left leg that his loss was attributable to the accident.

In 1975 he knew he might have a claim for common law damages. He was advised by Mr Scargill to take immediate steps but decided not to.

The colliery had closed in 1981. It was not until 1983 that any claim was submitted to the defendant.

On those facts the judge had been plainly wrong to disapply section 11. He had been led into error by failing to take an objective view of the plaintiff's reasonableness and failing to assess the plaintiff's case.

The trial judge had applied a wholly subjective test of reasonableness to the conduct of the plaintiff in bringing the case late. That was wrong.

Mr Holland had submitted that it was not incumbent on the plaintiff to advance evidence that a prudent employer would have known of the special risk of such an injury to a diabetic plaintiff.

His Lordship was not impressed by that argument. Where it was necessary to show that a prudent

Limitation extension refused

in favour of the defendant.

Lord Justice Swynn delivered a concurring judgment.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the plaintiff knew at the time of the amputation of his left leg that his loss was attributable to the accident.

In 1975 he knew he might have a claim for common law damages. He was advised by Mr Scargill to take immediate steps but decided not to.

The colliery had closed in 1981.

It was not until 1983 that any claim was submitted to the defendant.

On those facts the judge had been plainly wrong to disapply section 11. He had been led into error by failing to take an objective view of the plaintiff's reasonableness and failing to assess the plaintiff's case.

The trial judge had applied a wholly subjective test of reasonableness to the conduct of the plaintiff in bringing the case late. That was wrong.

Mr Holland had submitted that it was not incumbent on the plaintiff to advance evidence that a prudent employer would have known of the special risk of such an injury to a diabetic plaintiff.

His Lordship was not impressed by that argument. Where it was necessary to show that a prudent

Claim against trade union de-recognition fails

independent trade union, or penalising him for doing so...

Mr Nicholas Underhill, QC for Associated Newspapers Ltd; Mr John Hendy, QC and Miss Jennifer Eady for Mr Wilson.

M.R.JUSTICE WOOD said that Associated Newspapers published the *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and the *Evening Standard*. The applicant was a news sub-editor on the *Daily Mail*. He was a member of the National Union of Journalists and in 1988 became joint father of that chapter.

Early in 1989 the editors of all three newspapers sought to end the collective relationship between themselves and their journalists and to establish individual contracts for each journalist. On June 27, 1989 the group board approved withdrawal of union recognition.

By April 1990 all but 15 of the 173 members of the chapter had signed individual contracts, with substantially the same terms and conditions as formerly but with pay individually negotiated. The applicant was one of the 15 who did not sign.

The applicant had in prove that Associated Newspapers had taken action short of dismissal against him as an individual which contravened section 23(1)(a).

It was then for Associated Newspapers to show the purpose for seeking to become a member of an

which the action was taken against the applicant.

Under the section the individual was not entitled to complain from the collective action but only if the employer took action against him personally.

The industrial tribunal considered what action Associated Newspapers had taken and found that they had de-recognised the union. The applicant had changed the journalists' conditions of employment and had paid a salary increase only to those who had signed the new contracts.

It held that the de-recognition did not fall within section 23(1) because it was not action taken against the applicant as an individual but that the change of conditions and increased salary did.

The majority of the appeal tribunal disagreed. The only relevant action within the meaning of section 23(1) was the offer of a pay rise but that alone did not affect the applicant's union membership, or cause loss of benefit.

The industrial tribunal's conclusion was that the employers had changed the applicant's terms of employment was contrary to the evidence. The appeal would be allowed and leave to appeal granted.

Solicitors: Farmer & Co; Stephens Innocent.

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BBC1

6.00 *Ceefax* 6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* (5079550)
 9.05 *Perfect Strangers*: American comedy series starring Bronson Pinchot and Mark Linn-Baker as long-lost cousins in (719531)
 9.30 *Hot Chefs*: Anton Edelmann prepares a warm chicken salad, rosette of lamb and a selection of canapés (s) (40111)
 10.00 *News*, regional news and weather 10.05 *Playdays* (s) 10.25 *Bananaman* in (6579821) 10.35 *Showbiz*: Tim Grundy talks to film director Michael Winner, singer Julia Fordham and Rob C. Nesbitt's alter ego Gregor Fisher (7163151)
 11.00 *News*, regional news and weather 11.05 *The Flying Doctors*: Michael Smith, series (r) (Ceefax) (7621821) 11.20 *The Travel Show*: UK Mini Guide: Weymouth, the West seashore market town of Dorset, which has to offer the holidaymaker (r) (7195359)
 12.00 *News*, regional news and weather 12.05 *Summer*: Scene, Entertainment magazine (8449566) 12.55 *Regional news and weather*
 1.00 *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax) (s) (1954842)
 1.50 *Wimbledon* '92: Desmond Lynam introduces action in the women's singles semi-finals (17589111)



Introducing programmes for children: Andi Peters (4.10pm)

4.10 *Children's BBC* presented by Andi Peters, beginning with *Babar*. The first of a new series of cartoon adventures about an elephant family (2163869) 4.35 *Under Jack and Operation Green*: Episode four of a six-part comedy drama serial starring Paul Jones and Kenneth Cope (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5216753)

5.00 *Newsround* (2014397) 5.05 *Record Breakers* presented by Roy Castle and Cheryl Baker. The first in a repeat of the twentieth anniversary series. Among those appearing are Status Quo, drummer Russ Bradley and Britain's first astronaut Helen Sharman. (Ceefax) (s) (1364537)

5.35 *Neighbours* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (734376) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster

6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (27)

6.30 *Regional News Magazines* (79): Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 *Top Of The Pops* introduced by Tony Dorige (s) (6111)

7.30 *Evening News* (Ceefax) (s) (63)

8.00 *Evening康康*: Against the clock game show hosted by Paul Daniels (2521)

8.30 *Miss Abbey*: More comedy sketches from the 1990 series. With Les Devereux, Linda, Lisa Maxwell, Tom Bright, Jeffrey Holland and Sherrin Hewson. (Ceefax) (s) (1666)

9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Mervyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (250)

9.30 *999: Dramatic Stories of Real Life Rescues*.

● CHOICE: The more this series proceeds, the more it looks like a clever idea. Reconstructions of true stories rarely fail on television and these have the extra edge of being about people in desperate straits. There is nothing like sitting in the comfort of an armchair watching others going to the edge, particularly when you know there will be a happy ending. Tonight's rescues are of a boy who fell into the gully pit in Jersey, a motorist who crashed and ended up with a steel pole through his chest and two fishermen who were adrift in the Bristol Channel. The series are designed to highlight the courage and skill of the rescuers, whether trained professionals or members of the public, and to provide pegs for hints on safety. There is also a video report from the fearless Fiona Foot on the London flying ambulance service. (Ceefax) (s) (128145)

10.20 *Todays at Wimbledon*: Harry Carpenter introduces highlights of the women's singles semi-finals. (Ceefax) (s) (499111)

11.20 *Paradise*: Western adventure series. The peace of Paradise is shattered by the discovery nearby of a precious metal. Starring Lee Horsley and Sigrid Thornton (699579)

12.05 *Evening News* (3631995). Ends at 12.10

2.15 *BBC Select: Executive Business Club* (23048). Ends at 2.45

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites
 6.00am *The Day* (Show 5239598) 8.40 *Mr. Pepperpot* (8557685) 8.55 *Playdays* (s) (1954842) 9.30 *Top of the Pyramid* (80753) 10.00 *Let's Make a Deal* (2314) 10.30 *The Bold and the Beautiful* (58666) 11.00 *The Young and the Restless* (59596) 12.00 *Elsewhere* (70375) 1.00pm *E Street* (204) 1.30 *It's a Hard Life* (703182) 2.30 *The Brady Bunch* (5930053) 2.45 *The Devil Shows* (557111) 5.00 *Facts of Life* (3289) 5.30 *Different Strokes* (6482) 6.00 *Love at First Sight* (3395) 6.30 *E Street* (70318) 7.00 *Business Weekly* (41279) 7.30 *ABC News* (5124) 4.30 *Financial Times* (2339) 8.30 *Murphy Brown* (1208) 9.00 *News* (33869) 10.00 *Studs* (40647) 10.30 *Hunter* (53579) 11.30 *Fashion TV* (CS598) 12.00 *Pages from Skytree*

● Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites 6.00am *Showcase* (3503865)

SKY NEWS

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites
 News on the hour.
 6.00am *Summer* (6463802) 9.30 *Midnight* (28395) 10.00 *Daytime* (0056) 10.30 *Evening* (28385) 10.45 *Evening* (28386) 11.00 *Evening* (28387) 11.15 *Evening* (28388) 11.45 *Evening* (28389) 12.00 *Evening* (28390) 12.30 *Evening* (28391) 12.45 *Evening* (28392) 1.00 *Evening* (28393) 1.15 *Evening* (28394) 1.30 *Evening* (28395) 1.45 *Evening* (28396) 1.50 *Evening* (28397) 1.55 *Evening* (28398) 1.58 *Evening* (28399) 1.59 *Evening* (28400) 1.59 *Evening* (28401) 1.59 *Evening* (28402) 1.59 *Evening* (28403) 1.59 *Evening* (28404) 1.59 *Evening* (28405) 1.59 *Evening* (28406) 1.59 *Evening* (28407) 1.59 *Evening* (28408) 1.59 *Evening* (28409) 1.59 *Evening* (28410) 1.59 *Evening* (28411) 1.59 *Evening* (28412) 1.59 *Evening* (28413) 1.59 *Evening* (28414) 1.59 *Evening* (28415) 1.59 *Evening* (28416) 1.59 *Evening* (28417) 1.59 *Evening* (28418) 1.59 *Evening* (28419) 1.59 *Evening* (28420) 1.59 *Evening* (28421) 1.59 *Evening* (28422) 1.59 *Evening* (28423) 1.59 *Evening* 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• BUSINESS 19-27
• ACCOUNTANCY
TIMES 29

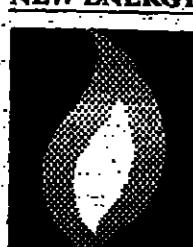
BUSINESS TIMES

SPORT
30-34

THURSDAY JULY 2 1992

**TODAY IN
BUSINESS**

NEW ENERGY



Keen to diversify overseas, British Gas has won a contract to develop 70 years of oil and gas reserves in Kazakhstan, the former Soviet republic, at a cost of \$3 billion

Page 21

CHARTER CURBED

Lower interest rates held back profits at Charter Consolidated, the cash-rich industrial group Tempus, page 20

OUTSIDE ORDER



Midlands Electricity wants as much as a fifth of all profits to come from areas outside the regulated electricity industry.

Tempus, page 20

COFFEE STAIN

Provisions of £40 million from an associate coffee business led Berisford International, the property and commodities group, into a half-way loss

Page 21

FOOD FAREWELL



Lord Sainsbury, retiring in November from the helm of the family business after 23 years, chaired his last annual meeting yesterday

Page 21

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9132 (+0.0102)
German mark 2.8970 (-0.0022)
Exchange index 93.2 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1917.3 (-25.0)
FT-SE 100 2493.9 (-27.3)
New York Dow Jones 3338.31 (+19.79)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 16325.07 (+373.34)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month Interbank: 10%
3-month eligible: 9%
US Prime Rate: 5.5%
London Funds: 5.75%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.55-3.54%
30-year bonds: 10.25% - 10.25%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
\$ 1.71/1.74
\$ 1.62/1.655
\$ 1.52/1.6108
\$ 1.59/1.7431
\$ 1.25/1.2682
\$ 1.25/1.2692
\$ 1.25/1.2693
ECU 50.7072/51 SDR 93.7540/41
£ 1.43/1.43855 £ 1.26/1.26187

London: foreign market close

GOLD

London: £194.60 (up £3.55)
close £194.00/343.50 (£179.30-179.80)
New York: Comex \$345.15/346.65*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brunei (4u) \$21.50 bbl (£20.35)

DEAL PRICES

RPT: 1383 May 1987-100
* Denotes midday trading price

Closer link with BAe could create dominant defence group

GEC suggests private-sector future for EFA

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE General Electric Company has approached the defence ministry about linking with British Aerospace to offer a private-sector solution for the future of the £22 billion European fighter aircraft (EFA) programme.

Although no firm proposals have been drawn up, GEC apparently believes that Britain's two biggest defence contractors could co-operate to take over management of the project, delivering the same warplane, at lower cost, to Britain, Italy and Spain.

Such an initiative would reinforce Britain's leading role in the European defence industry. Bae and GEC are the two leading British contractors on EFA. They have more than 3,000 staff working on the project under contract worth more than £1 billion. It would also secure far closer collaboration between Britain's two biggest defence contractors, a move that GEC has long advocated but that Bae and the government have resisted.

Lord Weinstock, GEC's managing director, said it was "an interesting idea that could offer a way forward and which might provide a cheaper solution with an element of private-sector risk, for the prime contractor that is at present lacking".

Lord Weinstock may believe yesterday's German decision not to buy EFA could provide an opportunity to achieve his long-standing ambition. Last autumn, he tried unsuccessfully to exploit Bae's slide into losses to achieve closer links, arguing that a single, dominant UK

defence contractor would give better value for taxpayers, and compete more effectively with overseas rivals.

If control of EFA were shifted to UK companies, the contractors believe streamlined management and economies of scale would cut delays and costs, and perhaps increase the chance that Germany will buy the plane later. It would also facilitate restructuring of the UK defence industry to cope with reduced defence spending and increased competitive pressures.

In the longer term, an integrated aerospace and electronics grouping might form an alliance with French defence groups to produce EFA's successor. British defence industry sources say France has proved a reliable and committed partner in collaborative projects, such as the Jaguar aircraft. Bae and GEC are already co-operating with French partners on individual projects.

GEC's qualifications for assuming a greater role in EFA are hard to challenge. The company yesterday silenced critics and delighted the City by promising to lift its dividend after announcing increased profits. GEC has also increased its cash reserves.

In the year to the end of March, GEC recorded a pre-tax profit of £829 million (£818 million on sales down a whisker at £9.43 billion). The cash surplus rose £348 million to £876 million. The final dividend is to be lifted to 7.05p (6.7p), making 9.6p, up 3.78 per cent, and covered 1.94 times by earnings.

GEC said it saw no improvement in the British economy. However, a strong

performance in defence and telecommunications, backed by rising profits from its European interests in the manufacture of trains and power station equipment, gave the board the confidence to improve the dividend payout.

The breadth of GEC's activities, and the strength of its financial controls, have allowed it to ride out falling profits from UK industrial and commercial markets. In some areas, including the joint venture manufacture of Hotpoint domestic appliances in tandem with General Electric of America, the group managed to raise profits and market share despite weak demand.

The improvement has continued to cost jobs, however. About 14,500 went last year, including 10,000 in the UK, reducing the total to 148,000. Thousands more jobs are expected to go this year, particularly from the defence business. GEC Marconi. Spending on research and development stayed at £1.04 billion. Faced with stagnant defence spending GEC has pushed up civil sales at GEC Marconi to 27 per cent. It expects more success transferring military technology to civil markets.

The company believes its railway, power plan, telecommunications and medical equipment businesses offer the best growth prospects. But it is not neglecting consumer markets. GEC expects to launch a video telephone this year, and has almost completed development of an airline in-flight entertainment system.

Best solution, page 23

Investors decline to take up Telegraph flotation offer

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE flotation of The Telegraph plc has flopped, with more than two-thirds of the shares in the £42.25 million offer for sale left with underwriters. The company said it received 3,700 applications for 3.04 million shares when the offer closed at 10 am yesterday. Almost 10 million shares remained unsold.

Institutional investors rejected the offer because of the recent fall in the stock market and the growing opposition to new share issues. Institutions and analysts also voiced concerns about the company's future acquisition plans.

The poor prospects for short-term profits ensured that private investors, including the Daily Telegraph's readers, had little appetite for the shares.

The offer for sale accounted for half the shares in the flotation. Last week, Cazenove, the stockbroker, successfully placed 12 million shares with institutions while Wood Gundy, the Canadian broker, took another 1 million to sell to institutions.

The underwriting means that Hollinger, The Telegraph's Canadian parent headed by Conrad Black, will still raise £84.5 million from the float before expenses. Hollinger has now reduced

its stake in the company from 87 to 68 per cent.

The failure of the offer means The Telegraph's shares are likely to open at a deep discount to the 325p flotation price when they start trading next Wednesday.

Some of the sub-underwriters may decide to sell their holdings into the market immediately. Analysts estimated they could trade in the market for as little as 280p.

A merchant banker at NM Rothschild, the company's advisers, blamed the poor response on the fall in the stock

market since the price was announced last week. "We are philosophical rather than depressed. In the general air of gloom in the market at the moment it was inevitable demand would suffer," he said.

He denied that the failure of the offer for sale would dent The Telegraph's image. "At the end of the day the quality of the company will determine its standing."

The dollar fell on news of the survey, while share prices rose on Wall Street as hopes of a fresh rate cut were raised.

Market sentiment was, however, cautious before today's

payroll figures. Robert Bretz, chairman of the NAPM survey committee, said the index was still showing an expanding manufacturing economy, despite the big fall in June. A reading above 50 per cent is taken as evidence of growth.

Mr Bretz also noted that the new orders index was at 58.3 per cent in June, which suggested that the economy would continue to grow over the next month or two.

President Bush said he did not want to put pressure on the Fed to reduce interest rates or undermine its independence. Mr Bretz said he thought that the fall in the NAPM index should not affect interest rate decisions.

Meanwhile, Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, suggested in Bonn that German interest rates could be cut soon. Today's Bundesbank council meeting is, however, not expected to adjust key official lending

for June.

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TEMPUS

Granada gets its profits picture in focus

IT has not taken long for Gerry Robinson to work his spell on Granada. Pre-tax profits of £57.2 million in the six months to mid-April, a 49 per cent rise, matched the demands set by the share price. This has outstripped the market by 70 per cent since the start of the year.

According to Mr Robinson, the magic consisted of simplifying the structure of the group and improving operating efficiency. That was certainly the case at the troublesome computer services division which achieved a £7.9 million turnaround in the half-year, to make a £4.3 million profit on an unchanged turnover.

Higher advertising revenue and lower levy charges contributed to a 26 per cent advance in the television programming division but there were setbacks for UK TV rental and leisure. The biggest influence on the pre-tax figure was the £15.2 million improvement in the interest charge, to £19.3 million, thanks to the £163 million rights issue last summer.

The enlarged share base means that the advance at the earnings level is limited to 15 per cent, at 8.2p share, sufficient to persuade the board to hoist the interim payment from 2.5p to 2.75p.

So far, so good. But already the market is getting twitchy, and is questioning Granada's ability to keep up the pace. However, there will no further losses in Canada now that the troubled rental business there has gone, and UK rental operations are only beginning to see the benefits of the new customer accounting system. Reorganising the motorway services, ten-pin



Charter trio: Nigel Robson, finance director, Charles Parker, commercial director, Jeffrey Herbert, chief executive

bowling clubs, hotels and travel business that compose the leisure division has yet to produce results.

County Natwest is looking for up to 15p of earnings for the full year, which means the shares, at 25p, are selling on a prospective multiple of more than 17. High, maybe, but justified.

Charter Consolidated

THE trouble with being awfully rich, as Charter Consolidated — which had net cash balances of £122 million at the end of March — should

know, is the pain you suffer when interest rates fall.

Despite recession, profits from Charter's managed businesses made a creditable 5 per cent advance in the year. To help lift operating profits from £58.3 million to £59.2 million. But though the average yield achieved by treasury management was 11.7 per cent, compared with a market average yield of 10.9 per cent, a 24 per cent reduction to £14.6 million in interest received clipped Charter's pre-tax profits from £77.5 million to £73.8 million. The total dividend still rose. Without the interest let-down and higher tax, Charter would

have been spared its first net earnings drop in five years. But the new management team, and direction, that came into Charter five years ago has turned the business round; perhaps profits and earnings will become more vigorous.

One spin-off from the recession is that anxious sellers of assets which could well fit Charter's profile are continuously knocking at its door.

With cash in hand, time is on

Charter's side. Meanwhile,

the fight against costs goes on — not only at Charter but at Cape and at Johnson

Matthey too. Charter's stakes in JM and Cape, plus its net

cash, are together worth 475p of yesterday's 536p share price, and pre-tax profits — and dividends — this year should be heading north. A 1993 profit outcome of £78 million, backed by a 22.5p total dividend, puts the shares on 12 times prospective earnings and a 5.6 per cent yield. Cheap, on a year's view.

Midlands Electricity

UNLIKE most of its regional electric company peers, Midlands Electricity is not setting down medium-term parameters for its dividend policy.

But its directors followed up a pro forma 14.7 per cent increase in the total dividend to 17.25p for the year to March 31 with a statement that "there was a clear commitment to remain competitive". One presumes they will never go first in any reporting season.

On earnings per share up from 35.7p to 49, the cover is 2.8 times, in line with the rest of an industry which is growing ever more anxious to demonstrate to Ofgem, its regulator, that it has adequately balanced the interests of its consumers against those of its shareholders.

In that vein, Midlands says

that in the long term it wants

its profits to come from stable

out not-regulated areas. Midlands Gas, the first of the

attempts by the electricity companies to supply gas, already has 700 customers and is expected to break even in its

first year.

Presumably to appease its local consumer lobby, Midlands makes the point that if the £14.1 million of under-recovered profits from 1990-1 that was included in the 1991-2 figures is removed, pre-tax profits rose only 4.4 per cent after stripping out £10 million of restructuring costs.

This compares with the stated real increase of 29.5 per cent,

from £109.7 million to £142.1 million, and the 46.8 per cent

pro forma rise from £96.8 million.

On forecasts for the current year of £164 million, up 15 per cent, a dividend of 19.5p

is expected out of earnings up to 56.6p. The shares rose 11p to 337p yesterday, offering a forward yield of 6.4 per cent.

A good hold.

Jobs go at toolmaker

THE recession has claimed an additional 250 jobs. Jones & Shipman, the machine tool maker based in Leicester, has announced plans to cease machining metal. The company has charged £3.75 million against restructuring costs in the year to end-March, resulting in pre-tax losses of £3.55 million. There is no dividend for the year (1p). Turnover was £15.91 million (£22.38 million), leaving an operating loss of £3.04 million (£413,000 profit). The company expects little improvement in trading conditions before the end of the year.

Bank payout expected

DEPOSITORS and creditors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce Hong Kong will, in September, receive their first payout since the bank was closed last year. Robin Header, the official receiver and liquidator, said in Hong Kong, Mr Header, quoted by the Government Information Service, said he could not give the exact size of the dividend, but was optimistic it would be about 40 per cent of the total sum owed. The final amount depended on adjudication of claims due to be lodged this month and the collection of loans.

Jaguar enters top ten

JAGUAR has climbed into the top ten of the league table of the world's most reliable cars in the most convincing evidence that the company is shrugging off two years of recession. The league table of customer satisfaction, in which Jaguar has been placed tenth, is drawn up annually by J D Power and Associates and is the survey most eagerly awaited by manufacturers, which know that it can make or break their sales in America. Last year, Jaguar scraped into twenty-fifth in the American survey after Power studied cars built in 1990.

ICL buys Technology

ICL, the British computer group controlled by Japan's Fujitsu, has acquired Technology Plc, a computer distribution company, for about £30 million. Technology was created after the £29 million management buy-out of the computer distribution business of MBS Technology, already one of the country's top three independent distributors, will be merged with ICL's own third-party distribution operation to make it the largest personal computer and Unix distributor in Britain.

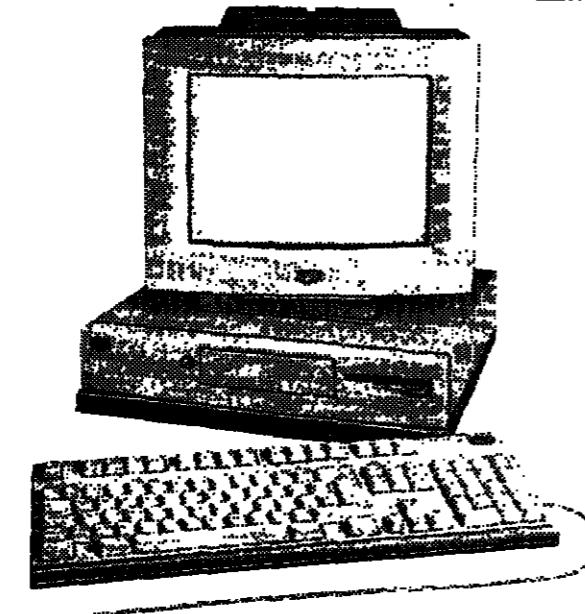
Bunzl expands in US

BUNZL, the paper and plastics group, has acquired the assets of Camelot, an American distributor of coarse paper and plastic products, for about \$3 million. Camelot, which had sales of \$36 million in the year to last October, is Bunzl's first significant acquisition since Anthony Hargood was appointed chief executive in August last year. Bunzl's cigarette filter business, Filtrona, will produce special filters from a new factory in America in 1993.

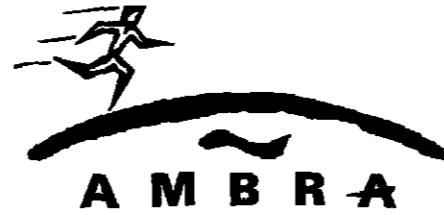
AT&T extends venture

AT&T says it has expanded its joint venture in Ukraine to include Germany's telephone company. AT&T formed the venture with the Ukrainian telephone ministry and PTT Telecom Netherlands, the Dutch telephone system, in January. The venture aims to modernise the Ukrainian phone system. The expanded venture would give AT&T and Deutsche Bundespost Telekom equal shares of 19.5 per cent. The Dutch will have 10 per cent and Ukrainians 51 per cent.

take your mind for a run, not your wallet.



Both the AMBRA Sprinta Plus and Hurdla Plus are now available at selected stores of Wilding Office Equipment, the John Lewis Partnership and Ryman the Stationers. Both configurations are ready to run with a complete range of software installed: the latest versions of Windows, DOS and Works for Windows, the Integrated Word Processing Database and Spreadsheet package. They also come with Lemmings — the 1992 European Game of the Year. There's 12 months on-site service and telephone hotline support. A full complement of manuals is included and both machines run industry standard software.



SPRINTA PLUS 386 SX 25 MHz, 2 MB of memory (RAM), 40 MB hardfile, VGA 14" colour display, priced around £1,100 (inc. VAT). HURDLA PLUS 386 SX 25 MHz, 4 MB of memory (RAM), 80 MB

the absence of any new Gatt world trade agreement, could produce a damaging spiral into protectionism.

Washington has already told Brussels it might impose duties on EC food and drink exports worth £1 billion because of Europe's protection of its oil seed farmers, which effectively hits US soyabean exports.

For British Steel the dispute could not have come at a worse time.

The company said this week that it made a loss of £55 million last year, reflecting, among other factors, slow growth in the American market. If Washington does take action now, that market could all but disappear.

Yesterday, a commission spokesman said he "professedly regretted" the American International Trade Commission's announcement that it might erect barriers against half the Community's annual exports of steel to America, which amount to 6.5 million tons valued at \$2.5 billion.

Furthermore, a senior commission official said the Americans had deliberately scuppered multilateral steel negotiations in Geneva in March so that the path was clear for countervailing and anti-dumping duties. "It's what you can call the first shot," he said.

After a complaint from 12 domestic steelmakers, the ITC now has 45 days in which to decide whether to penalise European steel.

British Steel would certainly be affected: the American companies involved, including giants such as US Steel and Bethlehem Steel, claim British Steel is still benefiting from subsidies it was given by the Labour government in the late seventies.

EC steel exports account for 6 per cent of the American market, and the flat steel products that are the subject of the American complaints, are valued at more than \$800 million a year. So-called "voluntary restraint" agreements that were signed with America in the early eighties after similar wrangles, ran out in March.

Graseby sells offshoot

GRASEBY, the former Cambridge Electronics, is raising £500,000 through the sale of Graseby Ajax, a subsidiary engaged in the distribution of machine tools and accessories, to its management.

In the year to the end of December, Ajax earned profits of £35,000 before tax on sales of £5.37 million. However, there was an extraordinary charge of £348,000 against

the closure of its CNC machine tool division.

To assist with the development of Ajax's business, Graseby is subscribing at par for 500,000 non-voting redeemable preference shares of £1 each and is providing Ajax with new secured loan facilities of £400,000 for a maximum period of five years, of which £300,000 is being drawn immediately.

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How does your old GTi square up to the new Mazda MX-3? Doesn't it now seem exactly that? A bit square?

Does its practical interior now seem boxy? It does when you compare it to the immaculate

But it hardly matters, for as everyone knows, the GTi has legendary acceleration.

Or is it just raucous?

It certainly is alongside the MX-3, the only car in the world with a V6 1.8 litre engine.

corners for extra stability. Together with all round independent suspension, it makes "almost magical" seem a pretty poor show.

And finally. Reliability. On that score you can always count on your old GTi.



DOES YOUR GTi STILL LOOK MODERN?

ergonomics of the MX-3. With its surprising space for two rear seat passengers, not to mention their luggage.

Does your old GTi offer ABS, power steering and a catalytic converter? Does it treat electric windows, door mirrors and sunroof as necessities?

Nope. (The MX-3 has all this, and more.)

A smooth, fuel injected, 24 valve motor that equals the GTi's acceleration figures with a fraction of the fuster.

Does your old GTi still have that almost magical road holding? Yes, of course it does. But look at the MX-3's low, road clutching profile. Its wider chassis, with wheels placed deep into the

Alternatively, count the noughts on Mazda's 3 year 60,000 mile warranty.

For the lowdown on both the 1.8 litre and the 1.6 litre automatic, call us on 081 879 7777. We'll also tell you the name of your nearest dealer.

Who knows. He might **MAZDA** even help sell your old GTi. Building Excitement



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How Mazda made their cars go faster.

NOT ONLY are Mazda building excitement, they're rapidly building sales in their niche market. A process they've accelerated by substantial investment in newspaper advertising. Mazda's confidence in the press medium (last year's spend was over £4 million) is matched by reader's confidence in Mazda's product. 88% of MX-3s were sold within three months. Proof positive that, when it comes to performance, newspapers are in pole position.



Lloyd's struggles to free itself from a spiral of catastrophes

When David Coleridge stood up to give his chairman's address at the general meeting of Lloyd's names last month, he described the market's current problems as "one of the darker chapters in the long history of our society". He can hardly be accused of exaggeration, given the column miles of adverse, damaging publicity generated by the heavy losses the market has suffered and their impact on names.

Yet, in historical terms, the £2 billion loss for 1989 Mr Coleridge announced is broadly comparable with those recorded at previous low points in the insurance underwriting cycle. Spread across the market, the loss works out at £1,000 a head, only £2,000 more, in 1991 money, than the loss for 1965, the preceding low point in the cycle. After that year, insurance rates were increased sharply and by the end of the 1960s, Lloyd's was on the brink of a prosperous decade. This time around, the cycle, though no deeper, has hit some names infinitely harder.

The reasons are not difficult to identify. First, the membership is far less financially resilient than in the 1960s, when Lloyd's still boasted a small, socially exclusive and extremely wealthy membership, much of which had been underwriting for many years. By 1989, the membership included many names who came to Lloyd's during the market's disastrous dash for growth of the mid-1980s. That was a period when all financial markets boomed simultaneously, creating a spiral of asset growth in which huge financial returns in one market were used to fuel another. Soaring property prices, for instance, brought the £100,000 asset requirement for membership within reach of new swathes of the population.

Second, and more importantly, the losses were skewed towards a small minority of names. A mere five syndicates accounted for more than a third of the total loss, almost £700 million. It is difficult to assess how many names were placed on those syndicates, three managed by Gooda Walker and two by Feirrim, because many names are on more than one. However, it is likely that the figure is not greatly in excess of 4,000. For these unlucky victims, no amount of statistical analysis, comparisons with 1965, or sage advice about "trading through" the losses will be any compensation. True, none of the affected names has yet been spotted in a cardboard box on the Strand. Nevertheless, the worst cases, in which ordinary retired people have seen the entire achievement of their lives wiped out by events, they do not fully understand, deserve sympathy.

It was such stories of hardship, combined with a highly effective lobbying campaign, that in February led Lloyd's to appoint Sir David Walker to head a committee of enquiry into the losses of the most disastrous syndicates. His report, due to be presented to the Council of Lloyd's today, is one of the most important in the history of Lloyd's. The pressure to introduce external regulation of Lloyd's has never been greater and Sir David's report could tip the balance. Even if the individuals con-

cerned are cleared of malpractice, Lloyd's is likely to take steps to prevent such results ever happening again.

To understand the chain of events that led to the effective bankruptcy of hundreds if not thousands of investors, it is essential to recall the *Zeitgeist* of the years leading up to the disasters. Money was easy, so easy that all you had to do to make some was sit in your garden and watch your house increase in value. On the stock exchange, bear markets seemed almost consigned to history, so long was it since the last significant downturn.

There was also a good living to be had from advising asset-rich individuals looking for income to spend on the boom-time high streets of Britain's towns and cities. The result was the gulf of share tip sheets, dubious time-share developments and investment salesmen of various shades of responsibility that we now associate with that era.

Things were also looking good at Lloyd's. Business and profits were healthy and, as with the stock market, losses just a distant memory. There were snags, however. One was the mess to be cleared up after scandals earlier in the decade; another was the rising tide of pollution and asbestos losses flowing from America's courts. This problem almost exclusively affected syndicates that had written policies with "long tails", on which it was possible for claims to be made years, or even decades, later. The result was that it became regarded in the market as safer to write short-tail business, where, once a stated period of cover had passed, the policy was dead.

One form of business that offered short tails and high premium rates was excess of loss reinsurance. This, in its simplest form, occurs when one syndicate reinsurance the policies of another, or of an insurance company outside the Lloyd's market, in exchange for a share of the premium. Unlike some other forms of reinsurance, all claims over the trigger point were covered. In most cases, the bulk of this exposure was then passed on to other excess-of-loss underwriters.

London market excess of loss (LMX) became an accepted and mainstream feature of Lloyd's, with almost all non-marine and some marine syndicates writing LMX policies to compensate for falling rates in their mainstream business. A few underwriters went further and specialised in excess of loss, achieving impressive returns in the process. Some of these syndicates grew very fast indeed. Gooda Walker's syndicate 290, one of the biggest loss makers in 1988, ballooned from an underwriting capacity of £6.2 million in 1982 to £69.4 million by 1989. These syndicates succeeded in attracting a disproportionate number of new, and often under-capitalised, names joining the market. How they were able to do so lies at the heart of the current crisis at Lime Street.

The hard-line Lloyd's view is

that

the names demanded that their members' agents place them on the specialist LMX syndicates because of their history of high returns. These names were advised that such syndicates also carried a high degree of risk, because of the nature of their underwriting, and that sooner or later they would sustain a substantial loss, as happened with the string of catastrophe losses between 1988 and 1991.

Some of the names' protestations, made with the benefit of hindsight after losses had become apparent, must be open to doubt. However, too many accounts tally for there to have been an organised attempt at rewriting history.

There is another version. This is that some members' agents packed their new canon folder names on to far more LMX syndicates than was suitable, even when names had explicitly requested a spread of low-risk syndicates. This allowed the syndicates to grow quickly to soak up the lucrative business coming their way and rake off generous salaries and commissions in the process. Worse, Lloyd's brokers sliced off fat brokerage commissions at the expense of

the names as the catastrophe risks being reinsured were passed around the market — the so-called LMX spiral.

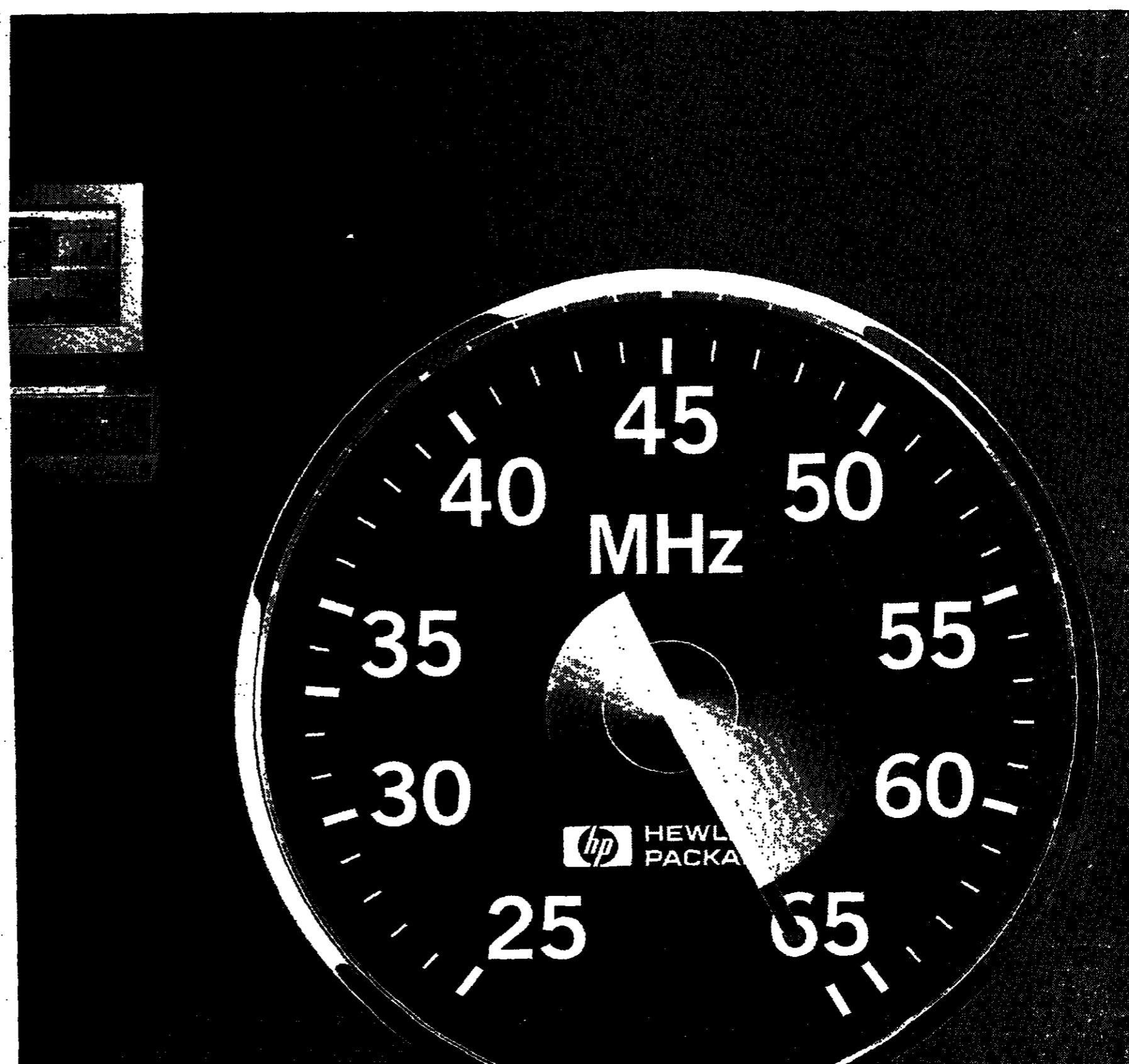
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So far, evidence produced in support of these claims has been circumstantial. The nagging fear remains, however, that a handful of rotten apples remained to spoil the crop when Lloyd's cleaned out its barrel after the scandals of a decade ago.



Man in the firing line: David Coleridge, Lloyd's chairman, faced names last month

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The Lloyd's battlefield: names are more vulnerable

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Portfolio

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Aust New Z.	Banks/Disc	
2	Seven Trust	Water	
3	Nat Aust Shk	Banks/Disc	
4	Young 'A'	Breweries	
5	Holdays Cpl	Electrical	
6	Kodak	Electrical	
7	Westpac	Banks/Disc	
8	Smiths Ind	Industrial	
9	Dulux	Foods	
10	EIS	Industrial	
11	Tibrook	Transport	
12	Cardo Eng	Industrial	
13	Halsed (J)	Chem./Pha	
14	British Gas	Oil/Gas	
15	GEC	Electrical	
16	Trimco	Motors/Air	
17	South West	Water	
18	De Morgan	Property	
19	Anastasiou	Industrial	
20	Dels	Electrical	
21	EMAP	Newspaper/Pub	
22	Steering Ind	Industrial	
23	Milldown	Foods	
24	Riva	Electrical	
25	Penland	Industrial	
26	Bowes Inc	Industrial	
27	Citycom	Property	
28	Electrocomps	Electrical	
29	RMC Cpl	Building/Rds	
30	Glensco	Industrial	
31	Barrow	Building/Rds	
32	Swire Pack 'A'	Industrial	
33	Quicks Group	Motors/Air	
34	Usher Walker	Paper/Print	
35	HSCC	Banks/Disc	
36	Honda Motor	Motors/Air	
37	LGW	Industrial	
38	Thames TV	Leisure	
39	Boot (Henry)	Building/Rds	
40	Hickling Pknt	Textiles	
41	Redland	Building/Rds	
42	Flame	Industrial	
43	Body Shop	Drapery/Sts	
44	Nutri Foods	Foods	
45	Times Newspapers Ltd.	Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily goals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

1992 High Low Company Price % div % Yd % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

117	Abbey ND	27	-3	105	42	89
118	Alled Aldi	10	-1	105	42	89
119	Barclays	124	-1	125	121	121
120	Banbury Ind	124	-1	125	121	121
121	British Ind	26	-1	25	121	121
122	Challenger	124	-1	125	121	121
123	Co-operative	124	-1	125	121	121
124	Co-operative	124	-1	125	121	121
125	Co-operative	124	-1	125	121	121
126	Co-operative	124	-1	125	121	121
127	Co-operative	124	-1	125	121	121
128	Co-operative	124	-1	125	121	121
129	Co-operative	124	-1	125	121	121
130	Co-operative	124	-1	125	121	121
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134	Co-operative	124	-1	125	121	121
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136	Co-operative	124	-1	125	121	121
137	Co-operative	124	-1	125	121	121
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ACCOUNTANCY TIMES

Ian Plaistowe outlines what he sees as the future for accountancy

Why self-regulation is the only answer for the profession



Fighting on: Ian Plaistowe is determined to ensure that his views hold sway

You would have had to have been both deaf and blind over the last 18 months to fail to notice self-regulation and the voluntary approach have had a bad press: Lloyd's of London, Maxwell and the pensions, my own profession. Even the press has had a bad press as people have questioned whether self-regulation is adequate to curb excesses of power over the monarchy.

Despite this background of criticism and scepticism, the Cadbury Committee on Corporate Governance has come out firmly in favour of self-regulation. It is worth asking why that committee placed its faith in self-regulation.

But first, why do we regulate at all? To economic liberals, regulation constrains commercial decisions and complicates business. Regulation costs money, which in the end must be reflected in the price of goods and services. But this is too purist a view, if not erroneous. Regulation is necessary for a range of social and economic purposes, particularly to mitigate the worst effects of market forces. Nobody would seriously question regulation for health, safety and environmental protection reasons. Regulation through competition law promotes economic efficiency by curbing monopoly power. The success of my profession has been built on regulation of clients via company law, audit requirement and the tax system.

So if regulation brings both constraints and benefits, how can we balance those costs and benefits? Essentially, we have to judge when incremental benefits are no longer matching escalating costs. As a nation we have not always been good at that. A feeling still exists that there must be an individual or a committee of the great and the good to protect us from greed, folly and ignorance. But in a dynamic economy there can be no rewards without risks and no system of regulation will stop the determined fraudster. If we tried to design one, the cost would be too high.

Instead, we must be realistic about any system of regulation and focus on developing one which is effective without being excessively disruptive or exorbitantly costly. It is against criteria such as these that self-regulation looks the best option.

Opposition to self-regulation

comes from a range of sources. Critics of the present system argue professional institutes are in practice no more than trade unions protecting the self-interest of members. So, it is argued, some form of statutory regulation would provide genuine safeguards of the public interest. But certain qualifications need to be made regarding statutory regulation. First, it is a mistake to assume that all professions are alike, or indeed that individual professions are homogeneous. It may, for example, make good sense to have arrangements for the regulation of the medical profession which are different from those for lawyers. Equally, within a profession, it may not be necessary to submit all members to the same regulatory regime, as the Financial Services Act recognises.

State regulation also raises fundamental issues about the expertise, legitimacy and credibility of those running it, whether as civil servants or lay representatives. In the latter case experience elsewhere suggests those most willing to serve may not be the most appropriate. Experience also suggests state bodies place a premium on avoiding criticism rather than taking prompt and decisive action. Moreover, external regulation does not encourage

the changing face of self-regulation is evidence of the profession's commitment to improving public confidence in the system. Increasingly, the state is delineating those areas where it believes the professions must be accountable to government. In this way, the accountancy profession became directly accountable to the trade secretary for the licensing of members to act as insolvency practitioners and through SIB for investment business. And the Companies Act 1989 placed on the profession responsibilities for the regulation of members and firms providing company audits. Both government and the professions have recognised jointly that in certain areas of the public interest, the traditional system of professional regulation in isolation is not sufficient. Outside these three statutory areas, the self-regulatory system persists in some

the spirit of the law. In short, the regulator is "them", the regulated "us". To quote Neil Hamlin, corporate affairs minister, talking of Cadbury: "The principles on which the voluntary code is based — openness, integrity and accountability — are particularly difficult to capture through a statutory code. In addition, statute law inevitably tends to be backward-looking and sets in tablets of stone the lessons of the past." The minister's philosophy applies as much to the professions as to corporate governance.

If statutory regulation has big drawbacks, what about self-regulation? To an extent, the strengths of self-regulation

In a dynamic economy there can be no rewards without risks and no system of regulation will stop the determined fraudster

are the obverse of the weaknesses of state regulation. The big benefits lie in its flexibility, sensitivity, practitioner commitment, legitimacy and economy. But with the system facing unprecedented levels of criticism, public confidence in self-regulation has to be rebuilt and the inherent benefits of the system demonstrated.

The author is president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. This article is taken from his speech to the ICAEW annual conference on June 25.

thing close to its original form, with the profession setting education standards, formulating ethical guidance and imposing discipline.

The basic allegation against the profession is that it cannot both represent members and regulate them. I refute that allegation. As an institute we see our primary role as being to serve the public interest. But we also believe firmly that in the long term our members' interests converge with the public interest. Moreover, by involving in our self-regulatory procedures individuals who are of the highest quality and who are independent of the profession and by conducting our affairs in an open manner I am confident we can ensure effective regulation.

The accountancy profession can be proud of the reforms initiated in the past two years. These include formation of the Financial Reporting Council and its agencies, as cornerstones for better financial reporting and establishment of the Auditing Practices Board, with more resources, independent members and streamlined procedures, to raise the level of debate on what an audit is or can do, and provide the profession with the best way forward to tackle the expectation gap. Also, the new system of audit regulation will raise auditing standards. The institute is committed to making audit regulation work we will find the resources to do so and will not duck any hard decisions along the way. We have also introduced significant changes to the institute's disciplinary arrangements to ensure they are firm, fair and fair. Lastly, institute commitment to greater openness will strengthen the credibility of our regulatory processes.

I am a self-regulation enthusiast — it gives the most effective basis for regulatory activity and underpins the ethos of our profession. If we are not regulating our own affairs in the public interest we might as well be a business, not a profession. That is not the future I want. I intend to fight to ensure that, as a profession, we continue to shape our future.

The author is president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. This article is taken from his speech to the ICAEW annual conference on June 25.

No jokes please, we're accountants

THIS year's annual conference of the English Institute of Chartered Accountants was, by all accounts, the smallest on record.

Yet it had one of the best line-ups of speakers and a coherent and timely theme. The institute wonders why no one comes and is apparently thinking of cutting the size and scope of the conference still further on the rather strange logic that this will somehow make the event even more attractive for members.

What it, and to judge by some of the speeches this year, many people in the large accounting firms also do not understand is that putting a premium on appearing to be very, very serious at all times tends to lead to dwindling rather than growing support for the conference.

Ten years ago the large firms used to run rival parties on the periphery of the conference as marketing ploys.

The institute thought that this was a rather blatant commercial activity and told them that such events were no longer welcome.

The result was that, by and large, the large chunk of revenue then vanished overnight. A group of members used to produce a somewhat impromptu revue satirising the events during the conference. It provoked much fun in the evenings to balance the serious issues of the day.

But when the institute decided that formal debates were the way to pack in the crowds it also decided that disorganised frivolity in the evenings was out.

The relevant members were told that their efforts were no longer welcome. And so another group of people ceased coming. And the debates were a flop anyway. The importance of linking serious endeavour with relaxation vanishes along with the delegates. So the event becomes ever more relentlessly serious. And still no one comes. The only people attending are members of the institute secretariat, the speakers, the press, associated dignitaries from other accounting bodies and a smattering of hardy souls who have made a mistake.

The same problem is reflected in the speeches. Brandon Gough, the chairman of Coopers & Lybrand, produced a remarkable thesis on "corporate governance and the audit".

This was full of the right jargon and followed the Coopers' line of steadily expanding the potential users of the audit product until some day soon we will discover small schoolboys employing the firm to test whether they are getting value for money when they visit their local sweetie shop.

So we had yards of stuff along the lines of "As accountants it is very much in our own interest that we should find ways of meeting the clear public expectation of more meaningful accountability by companies and other enterprises," Gough said.

"And it is highly desirable that our audit should extend to these new forms of information and disclosure, rather than be confined to what could become an elitist set of formal financial statements," he added. At one point

Gough seemed to leave the ground completely. "Auditors," he announced, "are failing to respond to a pent-up demand for service which could provide valuable opportunities for firms willing to develop along new lines."

The thought of a public out there just thirsting for more audits is a difficult one to contemplate.

Having digested his coffee, Gough would have found it odd to hear Graham Wilson, the managing director of United Newspapers, who was the next speaker. In the final analysis, it seemed, none of this audit stuff mattered.

According to Wilson: "The concentration on structures, audits, accountability, disclosure and all the paraphernalia of self-regulation and a legal framework ignores the critical, the really critical, aspect of how the 'system' in its all-embracing scheme really works," he argued.

Not surprisingly this turned out to be the "Sir Owen Green thesis". If you would all go away and leave it all up to me everything would go swimmingly.

Or as Wilson put it: "The emphasis should be, in my view, not necessarily on the separation of chairman and chief executive, or audit committees, or reporting on environmental issues but on breeding excellent managers who play by the rules because they make them themselves in pursuit of their own aim of excellence".

These are the two extremes. Gough wants the profession to be a serious player in every area of human life where performance indicators can possibly be measured. Wilson wants everyone to push off and let the unfeathered executive pursue excellence.

Both these aspects of corporate life are unloved by the public. The Wilson line is precisely the one which loses the profession its sympathy from the public. In the conclusion to his speech, he said that "audit and auditors are under fire". He then tried to explain this.

"My impression," he said, "is that the criticisms arise, not so much from a decline in standards of performance, but because we have failed to recognise significant changes in the environment in which we operate. Those changes particularly relate to corporate governance, the needs of stakeholders, expectations of accountability, business globalisation and attitudes to risk and compensation."

This is jargon. The problem is not that accountants have failed to recognise changes in the environment. It is because they have changed their own environment. It is the accountants themselves who have burnt the hole in their ozone layer.

The headlong pursuit of growth as a business rather than a profession has lost them much of their natural and traditional support.

The same could be said of the institute and its annual conference.

The author is associate editor of Accountancy Age.

Cork Gully reforms offenders

Edward Fennell reports on administering to a charity



Baroness Seear with board member Terry Nemko and Cork Gully's Malcolm London

were just a bunch of guys in grey suits who would only be interested in the financial bottom line."

For their part, the Cork Gully staff needed a little time to orientate themselves to the way the trust guarded its role. In no way were the managers "naive do-gooders" but it became apparent that they lacked the in-depth financial disciplines necessary to run what had by then become a

large organisation. So the first thing the Cork Gully team did was to take a rigorous look at the whole of Apex's financial structure — probably the first time that it had been exposed to such systematic analysis.

It was quickly evident that some of the trust's projects were operating at such a deficit that they were unsustainable.

In fact in the end, just two training centres were closed down although about one third of the staff have left.

Others, which were not making such heavy losses,

could be bailed out by the more profitable ones.

"We tried to avoid making decisions simply on bottom line figures. If a project was not losing too much money and was clearly effective as far as the clients were concerned, then we did our best to keep it going," Mr Runacres said.

Malcolm London said: "We are very happy to use the experience gained of the Apex Trust work to advise other charities which get into difficulties."

Not being a charity itself, however, Cork Gully gives warning that it is not doing business for nothing. Small down at heel charities may need to seek sustenance elsewhere. Either that or recruit some ex-offenders, computer fraudsters' preferred, who want to use their skills in a good cause.

Funding for the bodies

Hungry like the wolf

THERE seems to be no stopping Tony Silvester, one-time business manager to Duran Duran, the pop group, who runs the entertainments division of Neville Russell. He has just returned from St Petersburg with his latest discovery, a Birmingham rock group called Crazy Crazy, who became the first Western rock band to play at an open-air concert in Russia's second city.

"Nothing could have prepared us for St Petersburg," says Silvester who joined Neville Russell's "Birmingham rock group called Crazy Crazy, who became the first Western rock band to play at an open-air concert in Russia's second city. "There was a nightmarish trip to St Petersburg, the Tsar's former Winter Palace. Mary Martin, who works alongside Silvester as head of corporate services, went along on the trip to see what she could glean from the locals — and found they are hungry for bankers and accountants. How about some money first?"

Drastic measures

BRIAN Friedman, tax partner at Stoy Hayward, and Philip Hardman, who pursues similar interests at Grant Thornton, have found themselves on the receiving end of a

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

organisation was a nightmare. The free two-hour show was held in front of the Hermitage, the Tsar's former Winter Palace. Mary Martin, who works alongside Silvester as head of corporate services, went along on the trip to see what she could glean from the locals — and found they are hungry for bankers and accountants. How about some money first?"

Age attacking Hansard's accuracy while Friedman enjoyed a jibe at the expense of MPs. "That is disgraceful," snorted Smith, during a debate on the Finance Bill. "Both tax partners should be summoned to the Bar of the Committee, convicted and sentenced to death!" Fortunately for the culprits, the chairman decided such matters were outside his remit.

Bridging finance

JUST as Gay Ayton and Simon Scott of Price Waterhouse were abseiling 330 ft down Southwark Towers ten days ago, three of their colleagues were enjoying a rather



FRC chief sets out to win round reluctant bankers

Chairman faces an uphill struggle to persuade clearers to renew funding, says Jon Ashworth



Lobbying: Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the FRC

comes from three broad sectors. A third comes from the trade department and a third from the accountancy profession. The rest comes from the City — in the main, the Stock Exchange, which raises funds through a levy on listed companies. Pension funds and insurers chip in and the banks make up the rest. In the first year of funding, the banks' contribution was provided by the Bank of England.

The first three-year batch of funding began in March 1990. In the first two years, each sector contributed £1 million, much of it towards building up a £2 million fighting fund for the Review Panel. This fund is available to pay for litigation if the panel has to take a company to court.

Since this has not happened, the amount due from the sectors was reduced to £2 million between them last year.

Sir Ron will try to negotiate an arrangement with the providers of funds to allow the fighting fund to be topped up if legal action depletes it at some future date.

The Review Panel, headed by Edwin Glasgow, QC, and staffed by a range of partners, including solicitors and accountants, considers complaints about 2,500 publicly quoted company accounts, often in response to

press comment or word from the Stock Exchange. Most complaints are sorted out on an informal basis with the company, but the threat of legal action is always there. Companies that have changed their accounts at the request of the Review Panel include The Shield Group, Williams Holdings, Ultramar and Forte.

Since the Review Panel is run on a part-time basis, most of the running costs are absorbed by the ASB. David Tweedie, ASB chairman, and Allan Cook, technical director, are employed full-time, and nine qualified accountants are on the staff of the FRC.

Sir Ron may not just encounter opposition from the banks in his efforts to secure a new three-year round of funding. When financing was first being secured in 1988 and 1989, some members of the accountancy profession argued that the bulk of funding should come from the government. The FRC disagrees.

Sydney Treadgold, secretary of the FRC, ASB and Review Panel, said: "We do not think it is a good idea. The present funding structure is a manifestation of support from three sectors. The banks will need persuading. It will be a pity if they do not agree to new funding, pity but not disastrous. It's not so much the money as the principle."

Westminster School set a high standard with their success in the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley

Smith stages his own virtuoso performance

By MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Smith, a 17-year-old saxophone player, was the outstanding personality of the first day of Henley Regatta. Smith, who won a junior gold medal last summer just two months after his sixteenth birthday, stroked Westminster School to a superb victory over Hampton yesterday, just two weeks after celebrating his seventeenth birthday.

Hampton, the winners of the Princess Elizabeth Cup four times in the last seven years and the national schools champions this year, were led by the lighter Westminster schoolboys off the start and were three-quarters of a length behind at the Barrier. Hampton then piled on the pressure and came back to half a length at Fawley, but Westminster held on and won by two-thirds of a length.

Bob Michaels and David Rices, the duo responsible for Westminster's speed, have been working together since Michaels coached Rices to a Goblets win in 1984. Michaels, also the Great Britain women's squad coordinator, told his men to "bear the other crew man for man" and Rices agreed that the race was a "straightforward duel".

Westminster and Hampton's stirring of the crowd in the morning was matched by Eton and Shrewsbury in the afternoon. Eton, the winners of the Princess Elizabeth Cup for the past two years, were eclipsed at the national schools and their coach, Mark Woodcock, has not had the easiest build-up to Henley, losing his seven-man George Holroyd, to a stomach upset just two days before the regatta.

Using the new "big blades"



Taking the strain: the crew of the Union Boat Club coxed four, from the United States, show their disappointment after losing in the Britannia Cup yesterday

for the first time in competition, Eton, at a higher rate, led the fancied and considerably heavier Shrewsbury contingent by a full length at Fawley but, in Woodcock's words, "never settled it down and got away". Shrewsbury, still rating lower, edged back on power in the first half of the enclosures and then added rate to a crescendo of noise at

the finish. Eton's stroke man, Christian Brun, in company with many others, asked who had won and the judges decided Eton by two feet.

Almost as Eton finished, the weather broke and conditions on the course changed dramatically, but the Westminster and Eton times of 6min 34sec and 6:37 were only bettered significantly by the impressive

London RC eight, with former Cambridge and Oxford presidents, Simon Harris and Lynton Richmond, in the stern seats. They equalled the Barrier record and clocked 6:22 when beating Nottingham County while most people were still lingering over breakfast, and that set the standard for the day's Thames Cup eights.

Nihon University, of Japan, and Orange Coast College, from the United States, looked well worth their "selected" status in the Temple Cup eights and Goldie's Britannia Cup coxed four, composed entirely of former Cambridge boat race performers, looked impressive in beating Dartmouth RC, of the United States, in spite of being led off

the start and, surprisingly with a cox on board, being warned for their steering.

Brentwood College School, Canada, were the first "selected" crew to suffer defeat at this year's regatta. Monmouth School beating them convincingly in the Princess Elizabeth while Radley's second eight overcame another Canadian crew from Shawnigan Lake.

Shawnigan led Radley to the half distance, but Radley then rowed the last three-and-a-half minutes at more than 40 and won by one length.

The initial heats of the Diamonds sculls showed that the lightweights John Murphy, from Canada, and Brendan Dolan, from Ireland, might cause some trouble for heavier hopefuls.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM HENLEY

Thames Challenge Cup

Holders: University of Pennsylvania

First round

Sons of the Thames bt Kingston, 34.1, 6min 42sec; Oxford University Lightweights bt Molesley, 21.1, 6min 47sec; London 'A' bt Nottinghamshire County, 5.1, 6min 22sec; Thames bt Queen's Tower, 1.1, 6min 39sec; Quinte bt Durham Boat Club 'B' canvas, 8min 41sec; Bedford 'B' Vesta 'A', 1.1, 6min 37sec; Nottingham bt Alford (USA), 23.1, 6min 51sec; Robert St. Swithin's, 2.1, 6min 48sec; Thames Tradesmen's 'A', 4.1, 6min 48sec.

Agecroft 'B' bt Vesta 'B', 3.1, 6min 48sec; Newark bt Maidenhead, 1.1, 6min 49sec; Hanlan (Can) bt Syracuse University Alumni (USA), 1.1, 6min 42sec; Durham University 'A' bt Cambridge, 89.1, 6min 43sec; Cambridge University Boat Club bt London 'B', 1.1, 6min 49sec; Cincinnati (US) bt Marlow, 1.1, 6min 39sec.

Wyfold Challenge Cup

Holders: Nautilus Rowing Club

First round

Fengate, 1.1, 7min 00sec; Derby, 2.1, 7min 05sec; Bedford 'A', 1.1, 7min 21sec; Auriol Kennington bt Upper Thames, easily, 7min 16sec; University of London bt Cambridge, 99.1, 7min 00sec; Striding Up Thames 'B', 34.1, 7min 21sec; Calgary (Can) bt Baw Bridge, 1.1, 7min 20sec; Bradford-on-Avon bt Bewdley, 1.1, 7min 30sec; London 'B' bt Walford, 4.1, 7min 21sec.

Britannia Challenge Cup

Holders: Nottinghamshire County

First round

New York bt Gloucester, 1.1, 7min 15sec; Exeter bt University of Wales College, Cardiff, 1.1, 7min 30sec; Cleme (Ire) bt Union (US), 1.1, 7min 26sec; Nottingham and Union 'B' bt Scottish Argonauts, 1.1, 7min 10sec; Sons of the Thames bt Wallington, 1.1, 7min 21sec; Goldie 'B' bt Dartmouth (USA), easily; 17sec; University of Bristol bt City of Cambridge, 1.1, 7min 24sec; Neptune (Ire) bt London Welsh, 31.1, 7min 27sec; Athlone (Ire), 2.1, Newark, 23.1, 7min 36sec; Molesley bt Bedford, 1.1, 7min 33sec.

Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup

Holders: Eton College

First round

St Paul's School bt St George's School (Can), 7min 04sec; Worcester and Bedford College bt Broomwood College School (Can), 31.1, 7min 07sec; Oratory School bt Trinity School, 1.1, 7min 20sec; King's School Canterbury, bt Bedford School 'A', 2.1, 6min 53sec; Radley 'B' bt Shawring Lake School (Can), 1.1, 6min 58sec; St. Winchester College bt Bedford School, 2.1, 7min 00sec; Sons of the River, Worcester, 1.1, 6min 53sec; St. Edward's School 'B' bt St. Edward's School 'C', 1.1, 6min 51sec; Westminster School bt Hampton School, 31.1, 6min 34sec; Cranford School bt Bedford School 'B', 2.1, 7min 00sec; Kingston Grammar School bt Cundis, 2.1, 6min 53sec; Radley 'A' bt Abingdon, 1.1, 6min 48sec; King's School, Chester, bt St

Temple Challenge Cup

Holders: University of Bristol

First round

New York bt Gloucester, 1.1, 6min 38sec; Exeter, 2.1, 6min 54sec; University of Bristol bt Southampton University, 31.1, 6min 48sec; Phillips Academy (US) bt University College, Conn, 2.1, 6min 45sec; Nottingham University bt Aberdeen University, 1.1, 6min 42sec; Trinity Hall, Cambridge, 1.1, 6min 42sec; St. John's College, 2.1, 6min 32sec; Orange Coast (USA) bt Reading University 'A', 1.1, 6min 36sec; Exeter, Oxford, bt Christ Church and Magdalen, Oxford, 2.1, 6min 49sec; Tufts University, Cambridge, 31.1, 6min 46sec; St. John's (USA) bt University of Oxford Polytechnic 'B', 1.1, 6min 49sec; Oriel and Christ Church, Oxford, bt Downing and Pembroke, Cambridge, 2.1, 6min 37sec.

Diamond Challenge Sculls

Holder: W Van Belleghem (Bel)

First round

T. J. Murphy (St Catherine's, Can) bt D. E. J. Murphy (Molesley), 1.1, 8min 22sec; J. A. Burton (Queensland) bt W. J. Baker (London), 1.1, 8min 10sec; P. Anderson (Queensland) bt J. E. Bell (Calgary), 5.1, 8min 47sec; G. D. P. Walters (Tideway Scullers School) bt G. P. R. Reddin (Thames), 2.1, 8min 00sec; Kingston Grammar School bt Cundis, 2.1, 6min 53sec; Radley 'A' bt Abingdon, 1.1, 6min 48sec; Radley 'B' bt Walford, 4.1, 7min 13sec.

STUDENT SPORT: SCOTS PREPARE IN RUGBY UNION WORLD CUP

Japanese could cause a headache

By CHRIS THAU

SCOTLAND, Wales and Ireland open their campaigns in the students' World Cup in Italy today, against opponents of varying strength. Ireland, against Germany in Rovigo, and Wales, against Holland in Sicily, have fairly easy tasks against comparatively inexperienced opposition.

But Scotland have adversaries in Japan who could give them headaches. John Rutherford, the coach who is a former Scotland and British Isles stand-off half, says that the game against the Japanese is the key to the quarter-finals.

"The Japanese worry me greatly. They've made tremendous progress as they proved in the World Cup last year and they could be very dangerous in a one-off situation," Rutherford said.

The Scots have announced the best side available, including Carl Hogg, the recently capped international No. 8, and Gregor Townsend, the stand-off half who made a name for himself during the recent tour of Australia.

However, two players who could give the side experience and stability — the scrum-half, Andy Nicol, and the lock, Dodie Weir — pulled out of the students' squad shortly before their return from Australia.

Providing that the Scottish tight five hold their own against the anticipated powerful Japanese challenge in the scrum, and if Hogg and company win their share of lineout balls, then Townsend and his talented back division, featuring among others the Scotland B centre Craig Redpath and his partner Chris Simmers, home after a spell with Racing Club de France, could run riot.

The Japanese, captained by their World Cup wing Yoshishige Yoshida, could be awkward opponents as they proved in 1989 when they beat Scotland — admittedly without their British Lions — 23-24 in Tokyo.

Yoshida, who recently played for the World XV in New Zealand, and the Japanese scrum half, Horikoshi, made their international debut in that historic win against Scotland.

Unquestionably France, the winners of the last season's student five-nation competition, are the favourites to win the pool. Virtually the entire squad is made of first-division players, some of whom have already played international rugby. The captain is interna-

tional prop Serg Simon, one of the members of the Bébés front row, and the backs are marshalled by international centre Thierry Lacroix.

The fourth player in the pool is Spain, one of the tournament novices, who at this stage seem unlikely to make an impact.

In the opening game of the three-week tournament a maturing CIS upset the odds, like they did against New Zealand in 1988, when they beat Italy 13-8 in Padua yesterday.

■ Pierre Berbizier, the France coach, has read the riot act to his team in Argentina after a second player was sent off on Tuesday night for fighting. Stephane Graou, the prop, got his marching orders 28 minutes after coming on as a replacement in France's 32-30 loss to Cuyo, a provincial side, in Mendoza.

He punched the Argentine hooker, Martin Grau, who had kicked French flanker, Jean-Francois Tord, on the ground. Grau was also sent off. Jean-Pierre Genet, the hooker, was sent off last week.

ENGLAND B: J. Steele (Northampton), A. Hart (Prestonpans), G. Thompson (Cardiff), G. Clark (Worcester), H. Thomeycroft (Nottingham), S. Barnes (Bath), G. Davies (Cardiff), M. Rees (Cardiff), M. Heng (Cardiff), D. Sims (Glossop), J. Cawell (Scarborough), S. Ojomoh (Bath). Referee: A. Riley (Wales).

SPORTS LETTERS

Hitting machines have taken over tennis

From Mr Harvey R. Cole

Sir, The spectacle of thunderous service and abbreviated rallies at Wimbledon has predictably revived calls for the abolition of the second service. There are, however, good arguments against this idea, not least that it would effectively mean the disappearance of much of what the game of tennis is all about.

An alternative amendment to the rules seems to have much to commend it. If a first service is delivered both long and wide, it should be called a double fault, and no second service should be permitted on that occasion.

Yours etc,
HARVEY R. COLE,
9 Clifton Road,
Winchester, Hampshire.

From Mr D. B. Harley

Sir, Last week I watched on German television some of the men's singles matches at Wimbledon. That of Becker v Damm was typical of what one is now used to in grass and hard-court championships.

By my reckoning, each point consisted on average of just three strokes: service, return, and volley. Thus, in each hour, the ball was actually in play for about three-and-a-half to four minutes maximum. The German television commentator ironically, and in my view aptly, referred to both players as "Aufschlagsmaschinen" (hitting machines).

The introduction of the "high-tech" racket in the Seventies has massively contributed to the ruination of men's championship tennis, transforming it largely into a spectacle of power and speed, dominated by men well over 6ft who, by the nature of their technique, lack the artistry, touch and grace of their predecessors.

What I really fail to understand is the attitude of the Wimbledon spectators who are prepared to pay for, and sit through, such boredom, enjoying, if that is the word, watching the ball in play for so short a time — probably less than seven per cent of the total match time.

Yours faithfully,
D. B. HARLEY,
Sagenstrasse 35,
6318 Walschwil, Switzerland.

From M. Simon Henry

Sir, I have just watched a power match at Wimbledon which contained around 38 aces. This may be a way of winning a match, but tennis is turning into a "whoever is the strongest" contest. Tennis is a thinking game, of angles of the racket, not of standing at the baseline and hammering the ball at your opponent.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON HENRY (aged 11),
24 Frewin Road, SW18.

From Mr John D. M. Asher

Sir, I joined the queue for a Wimbledon ground ticket at 11 o'clock on Monday morn-

ing. Two hours later, with some 1,000 people in front of me, the queue came to a halt, and it was announced that the ground was full.

I suggested to a steward that there must be a better way. He responded that the French open championships were much worse and added that some 8,000 people were trying to gain access.

If the Wimbledon committee were to try to devise a reasonable system to admit 8,000 people seeking ground tickets, it would not entail queuing for two hours, then failing to gain access. The behaviour of the mostly young people was exemplary, and they deserve better treatment.

Yours etc.,
JOHN D. M. ASHER,
11 Avenue Road, Teddington, Middlesex.

From Ms Susan Robertson

Sir, May I advise all Wimbledon commentators that the standing ovation has more to do with having sat on a hard bench than showing respect for the players.

Yours faithfully,

SUSAN ROBERTSON,

3 Green Road, Benfleet, Essex.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046.

They should include a daytime telephone number.

Selectors do remarkably well

From Mr J. O'Keeffe

Sir, The recent selection for England of the young Salisbury and the recall of the old Gower (report, June 29) illustrate well the particular difficulties facing cricket selectors in view of these, what is remarkable is not the degree of controversy that arises from their selections but the degree of consensus they achieve.

The first difficulty is that there is no agreed mid-term aim against which to balance the needs of winning today's match with the needs of developing a future team. Other sports have the Olympics or European championships, and even rugby union now has its own World Cup at which to aim.

Second, a valid case for Test selection in cricket can be made for players of age 20 through to age 40, an age span matched by few sports.

Third, the format of the team is highly variable. There is a choice between how many batsmen to play, how many bowlers, and whether one has a specialist wicketkeeper or not. Within the bowling, there can be both fast and slow bowlers, and even within the slow-bowling department, there is a choice between off spin, left-arm and leg spin.

Finally, no other sport has the sublime combination of numerical statistics to describe the performance of a player, while huge vagaries of luck and circumstance can influ-

ence those statistics. Sometimes athletics faces this issue, but only to a very modest degree, such as the controversy that arose when Crisp and Cope were selected for the Olympics even though the statistics in their trials did not merit it.

Given these challenges, our cricket selectors do remarkably well. They could improve their batting average with two simple changes:

1. They should

THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 2 1992

RACING 31

Indian Slave ready for Brighton encore

INDIAN Slave can follow up his Brighton course and distance victory, gained eight days ago, in the Joe Black Memorial Challenge Cup.

Last week, the colt was gaining his first-ever success in the hands of Pat Eddery, who significantly will again be in the saddle. Despite picking up a 1lb penalty for his length victory over Absa, he appears to be well-treated by the handicapper.

This scenario is not the case with Dino, who is set to concede 1lb to the selection. On his day he is a useful performer, but at the moment the handicapper appears to have his measure.

A more likely danger appears to be Southwold Air, a hard-hidden winner of a moderate handicap at Salisbury last week. But I feel the concession of 10lb to Indian Slave will prove too much.

Eddery can also be on the mark at Haydock Park, where he partners Source Of Light in the feature event of the day, the Saab Great Britain July Trophy Listed Stakes.

Despite attracting only three runners, the twelve-furlong contest is by no means a certain victory for the champion jockey. Boltsz looks a useful performer when beating Polish Blitz and Torrey Canyon over ten furlongs at York.

Today, his stamina limitation may well be found out. However, there are no doubts regarding Alphard's ability to see out the trip.

At Royal Ascot, the Henry Cecil-trained colt was for-

from disgraced when fifth behind Beytos in the King Edward VII Stakes. But the performances of Source Of Light in the King George V Handicap, on the third day of the Royal meeting, when beating Wild Fire was very impressive.

Prior to that, the Rainbow Quest colt was totally unsuited by the testing ground at Wolverhampton, where he was beaten 20 lengths by Petro.

For the day, I expect Gemini Fire to relish the considerable drop in class when lining up for the Saab Manchester Claiming Stakes. Last season, the eight-year-old showed himself to be a very useful handicapper with notable victories at York and on this course a year ago in better company.

Today, Mick Naughton has significantly booked the useful five-pound claiming apprentice, Jason Weaver. This will make the task even harder for Sizing Melody, who now has to concede 9lb to the selection.

Lauder, who has slipped down the weights since he won over a year ago at Newcastle, can return to winning form in the Robert Bowler For Saab Handicap.

Last Friday at Newcastle, he showed himself in good heart when beaten over eight lengths by Viceroy, finishing sixth in a competitive handicap.

At Yarmouth, Briggescare can reverse the form with Broome Grey in the High

Steward Claiming Stakes. Today, the selection is 2lb worse off with Broome Grey for a 2½-length beating at Rye.

But on that occasion Briggescare was ridden with too much confidence. Also, the selection should be better for the outing as he had been off the track for two seasons and another factor in his favour will be today's shorter trip.

Anabelle Royale, who has won five times on the Norfolk course, can take the Westminster Motor Taxi Insurance stakes. Last week, the six-year-old showed his first signs of form for the season when runner up to Sebosa on today's course.

Mesafi, who will be attempting to give Dick Hern his third winner of the season, will present a serious danger. Last year, the filly showed outstanding form when runner up to Musical in a three-cornered race.

Michael Kinane will now resume his partnership with Twist And Turn, whom he rode to finish fifth behind Dr Devious in the Derby.

Eddery's agent, Terry Ellis, said: "It's a bit disappointing to miss the ride on Rock Hopper. He's a smashing horse."

Shaikh Maktoum's regular pacemaker, Mellaby, Bruce Raymond, in the race, makes out the case for industrial action by owners in protest at low levels of prize-money and bookmaker contributions to racing. Earlier, he had failed to be elected to the association's ruling council.

Jack Maxwell, a racehorse owner for 25 years, said: "We want to go on strike for one reason: we want bigger representation on all racing's boards because we provide the raw material. Without us they would have nothing. Let's see bookmakers pay for

Swinburn gets Rock Hopper

WALTER Swinburn will partner Rock Hopper in Sandown's Coral-Eclipse Stakes on Saturday.

Swinburn received news

that he would ride Maktoum Al-Maktoum's colt after confirmation that regular rider Pat Eddery would be required to ride at Haydock Park on the same day.

Eddery has been claimed by Khaled Abdulla to ride Shirley Valentine and Mandarin on the Lancashire track.

Swinburn, Shaikh

Maktoum's number two jockey, switches from the owner's Twist And Turn to resume his partnership with Rock Hopper in the Group One event. Swinburn rode Rock Hopper on his first outing of the season, when fifth in the Jockey Club Stakes.

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Owners seek voice in racing

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A STORMY annual meeting of the Racehorse Owners Association (ROA) came close to degenerating into chaos yesterday as a vociferous minority spoke out in favour of strike action to sort out the sport's finances.

After 40 minutes of criticism of ROA leaders, spiced by derogatory shouts of "rubbish, nonsense and enemy", new chairman ensued as Terry Lyons, the unofficial leader of the critics, attempted to extend the meeting for a further 45 minutes and so delay the arrival of the guest speaker, Lord Hartington, the senior steward of the Jockey Club.

Peter Jones, the beleaguered ROA president, claimed such a request was out of order, and while the critics demanded to know why, a somewhat startled Lord Hartington was ushered into the meeting, attended by about 80 members in a London hotel.

What appeared to be a well organised pre-emptive attack against the ROA hierarchy saw Lyons, from Surrey, make out the case for industrial action by owners in protest at low levels of prize-money and bookmaker contributions to racing. Earlier, he had failed to be elected to the association's ruling council.

"You say to trainers no entries for two weeks and you would have the government knocking at the door and bookmakers screaming their heads off," he said.

Jack Maxwell, a racehorse owner for 25 years, said: "We want to go on strike for one reason: we want bigger representation on all racing's boards because we provide the raw material. Without us they would have nothing. Let's see bookmakers pay for

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"Confidence is returning to the industry and now it is the responsibility of all of us — those who participate, those who support and those who comment — to ensure its revival is sustained by doing everything we can to promote, market and support racing."

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YARMOUTH

MANDARIN 2.20 Briggescare 3.50 Daaris. 3.20 Skulcap. 3.50 Annabelle Royale 4.20 Eternal Flame. 4.50 Riviera Vista. 5.20 Busted Rock.

THUNDERER

2.20 Broome Grey. 2.50 Daaris. 3.20 Skulcap. 3.50 Annabelle Royale 4.20 Thewaari. 4.50 Riviera Vista. 5.20 Chazam Island.

Richard Evans 4.20 THEWAARI (nap). 5.20 Chazam Island.

Our Newmarket Correspondent 5.20 Busted Rock. Lord Hartington, the senior steward of the Jockey Club.

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"Confidence is returning to the industry

England awaits return of the prodigal batsman



Poised to strike: Gower bats in the nets at Old Trafford yesterday

BARRY GREENWOOD

No cricketer in England, and possibly in the world, commands such unshakable affection as the 35-year-old bachelor who today returns from enforced hibernation to resume his natural habitat on a Test match stage.

The sporting public, with precious few exceptions, has loudly and bitterly bemoaned his absence since England cast him adrift in February last year. Today they rejoice and, come this evening, David Gower could have the statistics to match his extraordinary support.

Simply by playing at Old Trafford, Gower becomes the most capped Englishman. Simply by batting, he becomes the first man to play 200 Test innings for England. And by scoring 34 runs, simply or scratchily, he will surpass Geoffrey Boycott's record of 8,114 and become the most prolific of all England batsmen.

Someone asked Gower yesterday if he felt he had under-achieved. Briefly, an eyebrow shot up quizzically. Was this a

question to set before a man about to crest so many unscaled peaks? A moment's thought told him it was.

"I think most people would be happy with what I have achieved," Gower said contemplatively. "But yes, there is scope for thinking I should have done better."

He might have said the same thing at any stage of his Test career. It stretches back over 15 English summers and Gower is essentially no different now to when he started. He is still as likely to pull his first ball for four as he is to be caught off the last ball of a crucial session.

It is this wilfulness, this fidelity that endears him to the public as periodically, it infuriates his captains and managers.

He plays by instinct. Always

has done, always will do.

When the divine gifts of touch and timing are in full working order, he is the best player of his generation; when they fail him, few can look more vulnerable.

His peers accept this now, not least Graham Gooch, the England captain. Yet the Gower approach remains an enigma. Gooch went public on a view that Gower has had an attitude problem counterproductive for both the individual and the team. If the public baring of his soul was Gooch's way of reactivating a power supply in need of a new fuse, it has worked.

Gower has earned his recall by weight of runs in county cricket, something his greatest admirer might not have backed him to do. But has it changed him? Of course not.

Of the misconceptions about D. I. Gower, three are perennial in their misguided dogma. One insists that he is ambivalent to his profession. Another has it that he is a natural extrovert. A third declares him to possess an enviably serene temperament.

Though all are untrue, they share a catalyst. Gower has habitually erected a veneer to conceal his deeper emotions, such as ambition, intensity, shyness, insecurity and even a simmering temper, known only to the few who have done more than scratch the diamond-hard surface of the man.

Many expressed surprise when Gooch admitted that he knew Gower no better now than when they first toured together. But the captain is far from alone in failing to fathom the impenetrable depths of the Gower personality.

Gower knows a great number of people. Very few really know him. For friends, he frequently locates those of similar celebrity status — Gary Lineker, Rory Bremner, Dennis Waterman — as if they will within a week.

His rare public excesses

have nonetheless been memorable. He smashed down his stamps against the 1979 Indians and his usually admirable dealings with the media have faltered angrily when he left a BBC interviewer with an empty microphone and when he walked out on what he considered an inquisition at Lord's.

If all of this seems at conflict with his solitary pursuit of art and photography, it is because he is a man of contradictions, superficially tranquil and compartmentalised yet periodically stormy and intolerant. He likes the country but sees the city; similarly, he is a private person who has never enjoyed being alone.

He will be far from alone today. On the one English Test ground where he has never made a century, and where he was distraught and close to resignation when last he played, there as captain in 1989, Gower will have a crowd willing him as one, towards the run record.

Up in the television commentary box, Boycott will probably be telling the viewers that it means nothing to him. For Gower, though, it would mean not an end but a new beginning. He mused yesterday: "It is conceivable there are some good years still to come." Coming from Gower, that was as good as a declaration that we have not seen anything yet.

TEST RECORDS

All countries							
M	I	NO	Runs	HS	100	50	Avege
S M Gavaskar ...	125	214	16	1022	236*	34	51.12
A R Border ...	120	224	42	9632	205	23	52.37
I V A Richards ...	121	182	12	8540	291	24	50.23
Javed Miandad ...	114	172	20	8263	280*	23	54.36
G Boycott ...	108	193	23	8114	246*	22	47.72
D I Gower ...	114	189	16	8081	216	18	44.15
G S Sobers ...	93	180	21	8032	365*	28	57.78
M C Dowdery ...	114	188	15	7624	182	22	44.08
C G Greenidge ...	108	185	16	7558	226	19	44.72
C H Lloyd ...	110	175	14	7515	242*	19	46.67

England

England							
M	I	NO	Runs	HS	100	50	Avege
Australia ...	38	71	9	2945	191	7	44.70
South Africa ...	7	12	2	373	117	1	37.30
West Indies ...	29	53	5	2205	128	5	45.93
New Zealand ...	15	25	1	916	131	2	38.16
India ...	13	22	3	1084	246*	4	57.05
Pakistan ...	8	10	3	591	121*	3	38.42
Total ...	108	193	23	8114	246*	22	47.72

Boycott

Boycott							
M	I	NO	Runs	HS	100	50	Avege
Australia ...	42	77	4	3269	215	9	44.78
West Indies ...	19	38	3	1194	154*	1	32.82
New Zealand ...	13	22	1	1051	131	4	50.04
India ...	24	37	6	1391	200*	2	44.87
Pakistan ...	14	22	1	1035	173*	2	49.26
Total ...	114	199	16	8081	215	18	44.15

Gower

Gower							
M	I	NO	Runs	HS	100	50	Avege
Australia ...	42	77	4	3269	215	9	44.78
West Indies ...	19	38	3	1194	154*	1	32.82
New Zealand ...	13	22	1	1051	131	4	50.04
India ...	24	37	6	1391	200*	2	44.87
Pakistan ...	14	22	1	1035	173*	2	49.26
Sri Lanka ...	2	3	1	89	0	2	43.00
Total ...	114	199	16	8081	215	18	44.15

Home and away

Home and away							
Boycott	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	100	50
Home	57	100	20	246*	4558	14	51
Away	51	93	13	142*	3758	8	27
Total	108	193	23	246*	8114	22	47.72

Gower

Gower							
Home	62	108	7	215	4304	10	18
Away	52	91	9	173*	8877	8	20
Total	114	199	16	215	8081	18	44.15

David Gower needs 34 runs to become the leading English run-scorer in Tests and beat Geoffrey Boycott's total of 8,114.

Gower will become the first Englishman to play 200 Test innings. Only Alan Border, of Australia, with 224 and Sunil Gavaskar, of India, with 214, have played more.

Gower is the only England batsman to score more than 1,000 runs against Pakistan.

Boycott opened the batting in all but one of his 108 Test matches. Gower has batted in every position from one to seven for England.

During Boycott's Test career, England played 172 Tests. He did not play in 61 of those, including 30 during a self-imposed exile between 1974 and 1977. Gower has missed 33 of the 148 Tests England has played since his debut on June 1, 1978, including 16 of the 24 Tests in which Graham Gooch has been captain since his return from the 1989 series against Australia.

Boycott captained England in four Tests, winning one, losing one and drawing one.

Gower reached 1,000 and 2,000 runs in fewer Test innings than Boycott, but took longer to move to 8,000. Gower: 1,000: 20th innings; 2,000: 51st; 3,000: 78th; 4,000: 100th; 5,000: 127th; 6,000: 147th; 7,000: 172nd; 8,000: 195th; 9,000: 140th; 10,000: 141st; 11,000: 165th; 12,000: 1800th.

Two wickets provide welcome encouragement for Fraser as he continues long struggle to recover from injury

Benson left facing tricky equation

BY RICHARD STREETON

MAIDSTONE (second day of three): Nottinghamshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 246 runs behind Kent.

IN POOR light the Nottinghamshire batsmen were made to struggle yesterday when play was again badly disrupted by passing rainstorms. Tim Robinson, who grafted solidly for two and a quarter hours, managed to

Former champions have a bad day in the men's quarter-finals at Wimbledon

Sampras ends Stich's singles reign

BY ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THERE was a changing of the guard at Wimbledon yesterday. Out marched the last two champions: Michael Stich and Stefan Edberg, in stride. Pete Sampras and Goran Ivanisevic, while a third member of the brigade of past champions, Boris Becker, was still desperately manning the barricades, down two sets to one but a break up on Andre Agassi in the fourth, when the rain finally fell from unpronouncing skies.

Only John McEnroe, the old commander himself, kept his stripes intact. He took the first set and was 5-5 in the second against Guy Forget after a prolonged debate over the use of Cyclops, the service-line monitor.

The quarter-finals had promised much and, for once, more than kept their word. The one pity was that the weather intervened just as Becker and Agassi were coming to the core of a rumbustious match, full of invention, contrast and humour. At one point, as the emotions from court one spilled over on to the centre court, disturbing Becker, Agassi dropped his racket and went to the umpire's chair: "Hey, it sounds like a good match, let's go and watch."

His own bubbled along nicely too. The first game took 11 minutes, but Becker broke with a cross-court forehand in the seventh game to take the first set. Far from being downhearted, Agassi responded immediately, breaking for a 2-0 lead at the start of the second set and treating Becker's serve with such impish disdain, the three-times champion once stayed on the baseline behind a first serve. Becker was broken four times as Agassi swept through the second and third sets, but was working his way back when the match was called off. It will resume today, first on centre court at high noon, with Agassi leading 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 3-4.

The mood and the tempo was in high contrast to the first part of what could have been the opening day of a German v US Davis Cup tie. Stich, as he has been all through the ten days of his defence, was dark and temchy as if fearing the worst from the very first point. Perhaps, having been in Sampras's role as unfeasted challenger 12 months ago, he did know what was coming. Certainly, by the end of a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 defeat every bit as overwhelming and surprising as his victory in last year's final, he had an inkling of how

I can," Sampras said.

Whether his confidence, which has prompted comparisons with his untroubled progress to the US Open title two years ago, can survive an onslaught by Ivanisevic remains to be seen. They have played each other four times, both winning twice, and five out of the ten sets have been tie-breaks.

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FRENCH, DRY AND MISUNDERSTOOD.



Winning style: Sampras dispatches Stich in straight sets in their quarter-final at Wimbledon yesterday

Magic ring to Agassi's play



SIMON BARNES
AT WIMBLEDON

THERE is a lot of talk about power tennis. Apparently it is a frighteningly bad thing. They keep telling me that something must be done to control those 7ft-tall axe-murderers who exploit intergalactic technology to wallop 200mph services that no human being in creation can return.

I am a great fan of hateful, expedient tactics in sport. For a start, sports are competitions in which the idea is to win, not to look cool. But it is also true that without ruthlessly boring sport, there can be no miracles. The greater the level of organisation and power and expediency, the more extraordinary are the qualities you need in opposition.

They can be found. Think of Cameroon versus Argentina in the last football World Cup. Think of Brazil v anybody. Think of the All Blacks playing Fiji in the Hong Kong rugby sevens, and getting beaten by ludicrous behind-the-back passes. Think of England playing the last cricket World Cup: England tried monolithic efficiency and were beaten by the flair of the cornered tigers of Pakistan.

He fed ravenously on Becker's pace and power. The

ball came at him like a cannonball and left him like a laser-guided rocket. It was, briefly, sublime stuff: imagine all this from silly old Agassi, with his kittenish ways and his daffi clothes and his winsome manners. It was like watching a kitten savaging a rotter.

Both these players are colossal personalities: Becker, because he cannot help it, and Agassi, because it is his job. The atmosphere before the match was like a pop concert: a double bill featuring Jason Donovan and Bruce Springsteen. No one expects Jason Donovan to roar defiance to the world. No one expected Agassi to play Becker off the court for two sets.

The serve is the most important shot in tennis: this is doubly true on grass. But it is the return of serve that is the most exciting. Agassi has one of the greatest exhibitions of service-return you could wish to see: against Becker, on Becker's surface, on Becker's court.

He fed ravenously on Becker's pace and power. The

thing happened. It was as if he threw away his game-plan and decided that he might as well, in the immortal words of Ian Botham at Headingley in 1981, give it some humpity.

And in the same way as it did for Botham, it started to work for Agassi. If you're going to flash, flash, hard.

Success feeds on success. Andre flashed all right and ascended into a realm of perfection he may never visit again. Becker played well, let us not ignore that. His problem was that Agassi was simply extraordinary for those two sets.

He broke Becker four times. Becker must have felt like a marksman at Bisley

would if the targets started shooting back. Becker was serving hard and accurately: he was instructed in the difference between good and brilliant.

Becker had everything possible in his favour: the technology, the surface, the ball-skills but of the Agassi vertebral. He came close to dropping serve with his first game, and did drop in the seventh. It was craven stuff.

But after that, a strange

silence. Agassi had won the

match. Becker had lost it.

He had been beaten by a

player who had not even

been to Bisley. Agassi had

been to Bisley. Agassi had